

Generalized Stoke's and Gauss-Bonnet

Brian Wu

January 2, 2025

Abstract

In the first section we focus on the machinery needed for generalized stokes' in \mathbb{R}^n a powerful higher dimensional analogue of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Green's Theorem, Stokes' Theorem, and Divergence Theorem over a much more general type of space. Among the machinery it introduces are that of tensors and differential forms. We finish off the first section with a generalization of Gauss-Bonnet to all even-dimensional hypersurfaces.

Contents

1 Generalized Stokes'	1
1.1 Manifolds and Orientation	1
1.2 Differential Forms	6
1.3 Integrating Forms Over Manifolds	13
1.4 Gauss-Bonnet Theorem	15

1 Generalized Stokes'

A note before we begin:

The proofs will be omitted because for them to be clear and not overly concise would require them to be several pages in length. However, the proofs along with more detail can be found in a few books. Our goal for this section is to cover Generalized Stokes' in \mathbb{R}^n , and our main source for the \mathbb{R}^n case is [4] with [6] also being very helpful. [3] and [2] in particular were useful for the definitions associated with manifolds.

1.1 Manifolds and Orientation

We're used to working in euclidean space, however, many things that work on it work on locally euclidean space as well. So we don't actually need euclidean space, we just need something that is locally resembles it. That is essentially what a manifold is. For example the earth is a manifold. Now, maps exist, this should be pretty uncontroversial. So even though the earth isn't actually flat, we can still describe portions of it on a flat surface with negligible distortion to reality. We will soon use this to describe something called charts and atlases. Adding some additional structure can allow us to talk about smooth manifold and do calculus on it. While we won't actually venture beyond Euclidean space here, manifolds provide us a very useful tool that eventually lets us generalize many of the familiar theorems of calculus. The only type of manifold we will consider here is a smooth manifold.

Before we do so, we define what is a topological manifold.

Definition 1 Hausdorff. Let M be a topological space. M is Hausdorff if for all distinct $p, q \in M$, there exists disjoint open subsets $U, V \subseteq M$, such that $p \in U$ and $q \in V$.

Definition 2 Second-Countable. Let M be a topological space. M is second-countable if there exists a countable basis of M .

Definition 3 Locally Euclidean. Let M be a topological space. M is locally Euclidean of dimension n if each point of M has a neighbourhood that is homeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

Definition 4 Topological Manifold. Let M be a topological space. M is a topological k -manifold if M is Hausdorff, second-countable, and locally Euclidean of dimension k .

Since we are only considered with the \mathbb{R}^n case, then we only need to ever worry about the Hausdorff condition since every subset of \mathbb{R}^n is second-countable and locally Euclidean of dimension n .

Now, we define a chart. What we are essentially doing here is cutting off pieces of the manifold.

Consider the following problem. If we can only use flat pieces of paper, how do we accurately map the earth? Now that might be kind of hard since the earth is not flat (hopefully you were taught this) and so we can't really make a single flat map of the earth in all of its details without seriously distorting it. However, every part of the earth, if you zoom in close enough, is relatively flat. So what we can do is make a map of each small part of the earth (chart), then collect them together to form an atlas, which can describe each part of the earth pretty well with very little distortion. If you actually took each piece and physically stitched them together, you'd get a rough approximation of the earth. And if we allow for a bit of stretching and bending then we get several perfect maps of the earth. In fact, you could cover a globe with parts of the atlas. So then we take this idea and run with it, although it might seem to get a bit lost in a sea of terminology.

Definition 5 Chart. Let M be a topological k -manifold. A chart on M is a pair (U, ϕ) where U is an open subset of M and $\phi : U \rightarrow \hat{U} = \phi(U)$ is a homeomorphism. By definition of a topological manifold, each point $p \in M$ is contained in the domain of some chart (U, ϕ) . We say the chart is centred at p if $\phi(p) = 0$. Note that we can obtain a chart centred at p by subtracting from ϕ the constant vector $\phi(p)$. We will sometimes write ϕ in terms of its component functions as (x_1, \dots, x_n) which we will call local coordinates. You may also sometimes see these written in superscript elsewhere instead of subscript.

There's a specific type of topological manifolds called smooth manifolds which is the kind with which we will be working with. To define them, we will need to define what smoothness means for maps in general. The definition of C^∞ you are probably familiar with is the one that says it is smooth if it has continuous partial derivatives of all orders. However, we encounter a problem when the domain of a mapping is not open, then there are points on which the partial derivative is not defined, and so we extend this definition a bit. We only need the mapping to be able to be extended locally to a smooth map on open sets, which yields the following definition.

Definition 6 Smooth Maps. A function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ where $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ is called smooth if for each $x \in X$, there exists an open set $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ and a smooth map $F : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ such that $F = f$ on $U \cap X$.

We now define a more convenient homeomorphism called a diffeomorphism.

Definition 7 Diffeomorphism. A smooth function $f : U \rightarrow V$ is called a diffeomorphism if it has a smooth inverse and is bijective.

Note: For our purposes, all charts will be diffeomorphisms.

Now that we can slice off parts of the manifold with coordinate patches, we need a way to collect them all, which we will an atlas, now there's actually a specific type of atlas we're looking for called a smooth atlas which is

used to define a smooth manifold.

Definition 8 Transition Map. Let M be a topological manifold. If $(U, \phi), (V, \psi)$ are two charts such that $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$, $\psi \circ \phi^{-1}$ is called the transition map from ϕ to ψ .

Definition 9 Smoothly Compatible. We call two charts $(U, \phi), (V, \psi)$ smoothly compatible if either $U \cap V = \emptyset$, or the transition map is a diffeomorphism.

Definition 10 Smooth Atlas. Let M be a topological manifold. We define an atlas \mathcal{A} of M to be a collection of charts whose domains cover M . We call \mathcal{A} a smooth atlas if any two charts in \mathcal{A} are smoothly compatible.

Definition 11 Maximal Atlas. Let M be a topological manifold. A smooth atlas \mathcal{A} on M is maximal if it is not a proper subset of another smooth atlas. Sometimes this is referred to as a complete atlas instead of a maximal atlas.

Definition 12 Smooth Structure. Let M be a topological manifold. A smooth structure on M is a maximal smooth atlas.

Definition 13 Smooth Manifold. Let M be a topological manifold. A smooth manifold is a pair (M, \mathcal{A}) , where M is a topological manifold and \mathcal{A} is a smooth structure on M .

We now make a distinction. There is a definition of boundary you are probably familiar with, the one that says any neighbourhood containing a boundary point of a set will contain points from both the set and its complement. This is not to be confused with the definition we'll be using here.

Definition 14 Upper Half Space. The subset \mathbb{H}^k of k -tuples $(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$, such that $x_k \geq 0$ is called the upper half plane of \mathbb{R}^k . \mathbb{H}_+^k is the set of all k -tuples $(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$, such that $x_k > 0$.

Definition 15 Topological Manifold with Boundary. A k -dimensional topological manifold with boundary is a second-countable Hausdorff space M in which every point has a neighbourhood homeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^k or a relatively open subset of \mathbb{H}^k .

This is a more general definition than the one we gave before of a manifold, and so we will adjust our existing definitions to be compatible with this one.

Definition 16 Chart, again. An open subset $U \subseteq M$ combined with a map $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ that is a homeomorphism onto an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n or \mathbb{H}^n is called a chart for M .

The rest of the terms needed for manifolds are defined analogously (e.g. Smooth Manifold With Boundary)

Note: We will only be working with Smooth Manifolds with boundary

Definition 17 Boundary and Interior of Manifold. Let M be a k -manifold with boundary in \mathbb{R}^n , let $\alpha : U \rightarrow V$ be a coordinate patch about the point $p \in M$.

1. If U is open in \mathbb{R}^k , then p is an interior point of M .
2. If U is open in \mathbb{H}^k and if $p = \alpha(x_0)$ for $x_0 \in H_+^k$, then p is an interior point of M .
3. If U is open in \mathbb{H}^k and $p = \alpha(x_0)$ for $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{k-1} \times 0$, then p is a boundary point of M .

The set of all boundary points is called the boundary of a manifold and is denoted ∂M , not to be confused with $\text{Bd } M$

Here's a nice little lemma that becomes useful.

Lemma 18. Let M be a manifold with boundary in \mathbb{R}^n , and let $\alpha : U \rightarrow V$ be a coordinate patch on M . If U_0 is a subset of U that is open in U , then the restriction of α to U_0 is also a coordinate patch on M

The other definitions are analogous as we switch from manifold to manifold with boundary. For example, a smooth structure is still defined as the maximal smooth atlas, and M along with the smooth structure is called a smooth manifold with boundary, and so on.

The next topic to be discussed is orientation, which can be a bit confusing. Orientation of manifolds comes into play later on once we get to integration on manifolds, it's like a generalization of how flipping around the order of integration in an integral will flip the sign.

Definition 19 Orientation Preserving. We call a diffeomorphism α orientation preserving if $\det(D\alpha) > 0$. For two diffeomorphisms $\alpha_i : U_i \rightarrow V_i$ and $\alpha_j : U_j \rightarrow V_j$, if $V_i \cap V_j$ is nonempty, then the transition map is defined as $\alpha_j \circ \alpha_i^{-1}$

Definition 20 Orientable Manifold. We call an atlas an oriented atlas if for any two overlapping charts (U_i, α_i) and (U_j, α_j) , the transition map is orientation preserving. If there exists an oriented atlas for a manifold M , then we call M an orientable manifold.

Definition 21 Orientation. We call a maximal oriented atlas of a manifold its orientation

Definition 22 Oriented Manifold. Let M be an orientable manifold. M , together with an orientation of M is called an oriented manifold.

On a curve, it's possible to the reverse the direction of travel and thus the orientation, so we define something similar for this version of orientation.

Definition 23 Reflection Map. Let $r : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ be the reflection map $r(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = (-x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$

Definition 24 Reverse/Opposite Orientation. Let M be an oriented k -manifold in \mathbb{R}^n . If $\alpha_i : U_i \rightarrow V_i$ is a coordinate patch on M belonging to the orientation of M , let β_i be the coordinate patch

$$\beta_i = \alpha_i \circ r : r(U_i) \rightarrow V_i$$

We can check that β_i is not part of the same orientation as α_i .

$$\begin{aligned} \det(D\alpha_i^{-1} \circ \beta_i) &= \det(D\alpha_i^{-1} \circ \alpha_i \circ r) \\ &= \det \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -\det(I_n) \\ &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, as it so happens, each β_i forms an orientation as well, which we call the reverse(or opposite) orientation to that given by α_i .

Now, if you look at enough manifolds you might realize something interesting, if the manifold has a nonempty boundary, then the boundary itself is a manifold, just in one less dimension. We state this in the following theorem.

Theorem 25. Let M be a k -manifold in \mathbb{R}^n , of class C^r . If ∂M is non-empty, then ∂M is a $k-1$ manifold without boundary in \mathbb{R}^n of class C^r

You may have noticed that we've defined orientation for manifolds, and not manifolds with boundaries. This is not the same for every book, in particular [4] and [6] define the induced orientation to compensate whereas [3] simply extends the definition. Since we are mostly following [4], we will take their approach. Now that we know that the boundary is a manifold, is it also orientable? As it turns out, yes it is. However we first need a method of finding coordinate patches to cover ∂M .

Definition 26 Restricting Coordinate Patches to ∂M . Let U_0 be the open set of \mathbb{R}^{k-1} such that $U_0 \times 0 = U \cap \partial \mathbb{H}^k$. If $x \in U_0$, we define $\alpha_0(x) = \alpha(x, 0)$. By our definition of boundary point, $\alpha_0(x)$ must be a boundary point. It then follows from lemma 1 that $\alpha_0(x)$ is a coordinate patch on ∂M .

Theorem 27. Let $k > 1$. If M is an orientable k -manifold with non-empty boundary, then ∂M is orientable.

While we won't explicitly mention it here, there is a choice of a "natural orientation", and as it turns out, every manifold has at last two orientations. The natural orientation and its reverse orientation. Connected manifolds have exactly two orientations.

Definition 28 Induced Orientation. Let M be an orientable k -manifold with nonempty boundary. Given an orientation μ of M , the corresponding induced orientation of ∂M is defined as follows. If k is even, it is the orientation obtained by restricting(recall definition 24) coordinate patches belonging to the orientation of M . If k is odd, it is the opposite of the orientation of ∂M obtained in this way

1.2 Differential Forms

Differential forms involve a lot of abstraction and it's hard to see the point at times. Here we do not present a picture of what they represent, but rather why they exist, and why the abstractions. The definition of a differential form is, as was put [here](#), something that can be integrated. The weird part is that these layers of seemingly endless abstraction give way to a very elegant generalization of all the fundamental theorems of calculus in any number of dimensions, called Generalized Stokes'(GS). It lends itself to many more purposes beyond GS but GS will be the focus of this section. We will stick to the real numbers here as the technicality increases massively in generalizations. We will primarily be using [\[4\]](#) and to a lesser extent [\[6\]](#) here. Check out [\[3\]](#) if you are interested in a much more general discussion.

To start, we first introduce a generalization of a linear map called a tensor, which uses the same idea.

Definition 29 Tensor. Let V be a vector space and $v_i \in V$ for all $i \leq k$. A k -tensor is a function $f : V^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that is linear in each variable. In other words, if c_1 and c_2 are scalars, then for all $i \leq k$, $f(v_1, \dots, c_1 v_{i_1} + c_2 v_{i_2}, \dots, v_k) = c_1 f(v_1, \dots, v_{i_1}, \dots, v_k) + c_2 f(v_1, \dots, v_{i_2}, \dots, v_k)$. We denote the space of all k -tensors on V by $\mathcal{L}^k(V)$.

Tensors are the first thing we generalize. A 0-tensor is a scalar, a 1-tensor is a linear map, a 2-tensor is a bilinear map(e.g. inner product), and so on. Notice that a linear map has a matrix representation of a vector when it has only 1 variable as input. So then a tensor field, depending on the degree of the tensor, could either be a scalar field, a vector field, a field of matrices, and of multilinear maps in general. This idea becomes important later, as you might be able to see. Instead of having to integrate a function over a loop or a vector field over a surface, you only need a tensor field. However, we further divide tensors into symmetric and antisymmetric(aka alternating) tensors, and as it turns out, alternating tensors have the right properties for integration. However, to get to it we first juggle around some terms.

We've established that tensors are a generalization of vectors so you may be wondering if a tensor can be represented in terms of a basis, and the answer is actually yes!

Theorem 30. Let V be a vector space with basis a_1, \dots, a_n . Let $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ be a k -tuple of integers from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$. There is a unique k -tensor ϕ_I on V such that, for every k -tuple (j_1, \dots, j_k) from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$\phi_I(a_{j_1}, \dots, a_{j_k}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } I \neq J \\ 1 & \text{if } I = J \end{cases}$$

The tensors ϕ_I for $\mathcal{L}^k(V)$. We call ϕ_I the elementary k -tensors on V corresponding to the basis a_1, \dots, a_n for V . We can also define something called the elementary tensors denoted ϕ_i and defined as

$$\phi_i(a_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

It has the property that if $d_I = f(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_k})$, then $f = \sum_I d_I \phi_I$

Now that we have all of this, we want a way to multiply two tensors and have the result still be a tensor, and in the cases that we are discussing, this comes together as something called the tensor product. Similar to how multiplication adds the exponents of two numbers that have the same base in exponential form, we define something called a tensor product which adds together the orders of two tensors

Definition 31 Tensor Product. The tensor product of a k -tensor f and an ℓ -tensor g denoted $f \otimes g$ is defined by

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_k) \otimes g(v_{k+1}, \dots, v_{k+\ell}) = f(v_1, \dots, v_k) \cdot g(v_{k+1}, \dots, v_{k+\ell})$$

The tensor product $f \otimes g$ is a tensor of order $k + \ell$

Since the tensor product in this case is just multiplication, you might (correctly) guess that it would share some of the properties of multiplication. We list them in the following theorem

Theorem 32. Let f, g, h be tensors on V . Then the following properties hold:

1. (Associativity) $f \otimes (g \otimes h) = (f \otimes g) \otimes h$
2. (Homogeneity) $(cf) \otimes g = c(f \otimes g) = f \otimes (cg)$
3. (Distributivity) Suppose f and g have the same order. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} (f + g) \otimes h &= f \otimes h + g \otimes h \\ h \otimes (f + g) &= h \otimes f + h \otimes g \end{aligned}$$

This is a good time to describe what the word alternating means in the context of alternating tensors. While we haven't defined them yet, it does give a bit of a glimpse as to why the next few pieces of terminology are important. Alternating in this case means that it is signed. The funny thing about alternating tensors is that it is actually the determinant, and like the determinant, switching around terms will result in it alternating between positive and negative. It's hard to see the purpose and while there probably exists some long-winded explanation, we can also just say "It just works". Explanations would probably include mention of Theorem 6. For now, we must trudge through.

Definition 33 Permutation. A permutation is a bijection from $\{1, \dots, n\}$ to itself. Given $1 \leq i \leq k$, an elementary permutation e_i is defined by

$$e_i(v_j) = \begin{cases} v_i & j = i + 1 \\ v_{i+1} & j = i \\ v_j & j \neq i, i + 1 \end{cases}$$

We denote the symmetry group on n elements by S_n

Let's talk about permutations as shuffling cards. Any shuffle of cards can be done as some sequence of card swaps (swapping the position of two cards), and swapping the position of any two cards can be done by a sequence of swapping a card with the card next to it in a specific pattern. It then follows that every card shuffle is just the composition of some number of card swaps between immediate neighbours. Bringing this into the language of math, we can see that this is a specific case of the following lemma

Lemma 34. If $\sigma \in S_k$, then σ is a composition of elementary permutations.

Definition 35 Sign of Permutation. Let σ be a permutation. We define the sign of σ denoted $\text{sgn } \sigma$ to be 1 if σ is the composition of an even number of elementary permutations and -1 if it is the composition of an odd number.

Definition 36 *Permutation on Tensor*. If σ is a permutation of $\{1, \dots, k\}$ and f is a k -tensor, then $f^\sigma(v_1, \dots, v_k) = f(v_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(k)})$.

As it turns out, the function sgn has some nice properties, which we list here.

Lemma 37. Let $\sigma, \tau \in S_k$

1. If σ equals a composite of m elementary permutations, then $\text{sgn } \sigma = (-1)^m$
2. $\text{sgn } (\sigma \circ \tau) = (\text{sgn } \sigma) \cdot (\text{sgn } \tau)$
3. $\text{sgn } \sigma^{-1} = \text{sgn } \sigma$
4. if $p \neq q$, and if τ is the permutation that exchanges p and q and leaves all other integers fixed, then $\text{sgn } \tau = -1$

Now we have the tools necessary to define an alternating tensor.

Definition 38 *Alternating Tensor*. If $f : V^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a k -tensor, then f is said to be alternating if $f^{e_i} = -f$ for all i . In other words,

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_{i+1}, v_i, \dots, v_k) = -f(v_1, \dots, v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_k)$$

for all $1 \leq i \leq k$. We call the space of all alternating k -tensors on a vector space V , $A^k(V)$

Lemma 39. Let $\sigma, \tau \in S_k$

1. If σ equals a composite of m elementary permutations, then $\text{sgn } \sigma = (-1)^m$
2. $\text{sgn } (\sigma \circ \tau) = (\text{sgn } \sigma) \cdot (\text{sgn } \tau)$
3. $\text{sgn } \sigma^{-1} = \text{sgn } \sigma$
4. if $p \neq q$, and if τ is the permutation that exchanges p and q and leaves all other integers fixed, then $\text{sgn } \tau = -1$

We now introduce a nicer way to represent an alternating tensor, and showing another connection between permutations and alternating tensors

Lemma 40. The tensor f is alternating if and only if $f^\sigma = (\text{sgn } \sigma)f$ for all σ

Recall how we had the elementary k -tensor, we now do the same here by defining the elementary alternating k -tensor, which we do right now.

Theorem 41. Let V be a vector space with basis a_1, \dots, a_n . let $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ be an ascending k-tuple from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$. There is a unique alternating k-tensor ψ_I on V such that for every ascending k-tuple $J = (j_1, \dots, j_k)$ from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$\psi_I(a_{j_1}, \dots, a_{j_k}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } I \neq J \\ 1 & \text{if } I = J \end{cases}$$

The tensors form a basis for $A^k(V)$. The tensor ψ_I satisfies

$$\psi_I = \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} (\text{sgn } \sigma) (\phi_I)^\sigma$$

Lastly, we have this tidbit of information which shows how alternating tensors are a generalization of the determinant.

Theorem 42. Let ψ_I be an elementary alternating tensor on \mathbb{R}^n corresponding to the usual basis for \mathbb{R}^n , where $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$. Given vectors (x_1, \dots, x_k) of \mathbb{R}^n , let X be the matrix $X = [x_1, \dots, x_k]$. Then

$$\psi_I(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \det X_I$$

where X_I denotes the matrix whose successive rows are rows i_1, \dots, i_k

We've shown how we can define a basis for alternating tensors, just as with normal tensors, and so it is only natural that we now define a product for alternating tensors. The problem with the tensor product is that $f \otimes g$ is rarely alternating, even if f and g are.

Definition 43 Wedge Product. To define the wedge product, we first define a transformation $\text{Alt} : \mathcal{L}^k(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^k(V)$ by

$$\text{Alt } F = \sum_{\sigma} (\text{sgn } \sigma) F^\sigma$$

where σ extends over all permutations on $\{1, \dots, k\}$ The wedge product of an alternating k-tensor f and an alternating ℓ -tensor g on V defined by

$$f \wedge g = \frac{1}{k!\ell!} A(f \otimes g)$$

$f \wedge g$ is an alternating $k + \ell$ -tensor

The coefficient $\frac{1}{k!\ell!}$ may seem strangely out of place here but it is used in this case for associativity although some texts will use other, similar, coefficients.

Theorem 44. Let V be a vector space. For $f \in A^k(V)$, $g \in A^\ell(V)$, $h \in A^m(V)$, the following properties hold

1. (Associativity) $f \wedge (g \wedge h) = (f \wedge g) \wedge h$
2. (Homogeneity) $(cf) \wedge g = c(f \wedge g) = f \wedge (cg)$
3. (Distributivity) If f and g have the same order,

$$\begin{aligned}(f + g) \wedge h &= f \wedge h + g \wedge h \\ h \wedge (f + g) &= h \wedge f + h \wedge g\end{aligned}$$

4. (Anticommutativity) If f and g have orders k and ℓ , respectively, then

$$g \wedge f = (-1)^{k\ell} f \wedge g$$

We now reach the differential parts and the first thing we do is define the tangent space.

Definition 45 Tangent Space. Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we define a tangent vector to \mathbb{R}^n at x to be a pair (x, v) , where $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$. The set of all tangent vectors to \mathbb{R}^n at x is called the tangent space of x at \mathbb{R}^n and is denoted $T_x(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

We can extend this definition to manifolds in general, but before we do that we need to define something called the transformation induced by a differential map.

Definition 46 Transformation Induced by Differentiable Map. Let A be open in \mathbb{R}^k or \mathbb{H}^k , let $\alpha : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be of class C^r . Let $x \in A$ and let $p = \alpha(x)$. We define a linear transformation $\alpha_* : T_x(\mathbb{R}^k) \rightarrow T_p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by the equation

$$\alpha_*(x, v) = (p, D\alpha(x) \cdot v)$$

This is called the transformation induced by the differentiable map α

Now we can define the tangent space on manifolds.

Definition 47 Tangent Space on Manifolds with Boundary. Let M be a k -manifold with boundary of class C^r in \mathbb{R}^n . If $p \in M$, choose a coordinate patch $\alpha : U \rightarrow V$ about p where U is open in \mathbb{R}^k or \mathbb{H}^k . Let x be the point of U such that $\alpha(x) = p$. The set of all vectors of the form $\alpha_*(x, v)$, where v is a vector in \mathbb{R}^k , is called the tangent space to M at p , and is denoted $T_p(M)$.

Since \mathbb{R}^k is spanned by e_1, \dots, e_k , $T_p(M)$ is spanned by the vectors $(p, D\alpha(x) \cdot e_j) = \left(p, \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial x_j}\right)$ which form a basis for $T_p(M)$

We can now give a generalization of the scalar and vector field here. Instead of a scalar or a vector, we assign a k -tensor to each point (Recall a 0-tensor is a scalar and a 1-tensor is a vector when there is only a single variable input).

Definition 48 Differential Form. Let A be an open set in \mathbb{R}^n . A k -tensor field in A is a function ω assigning to each $x \in A$ a k -tensor $\omega(x)$ defined on $T_x(\mathbb{R}^n)$. If each $\omega(x)$ is an alternating tensor, then we call ω a differential form of order k or simply k -form. The set of all (C^∞) k -forms on A is denoted $\Omega^k(A)$

Recall how earlier we defined elementary tensors, now we do the same except for forms.

Definition 49 elementary forms. Let e_1, \dots, e_n be the usual basis for \mathbb{R}^n . Then $(x, e_1), \dots, (x, e_n)$ is called the usual basis for $T_x(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We define a 1-form

$$\tilde{\phi}_i(x)(x, e_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

called an elementary 1-form on \mathbb{R}^n . This is often denoted dx_i . Using this notation, given an ascending k-tuple $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ we define a k-form

$$dx_I = dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_k}$$

The k-forms dx_I are called the elementary k-forms on \mathbb{R}^n

A property that becomes very useful is $dx_i \wedge dx_i = 0$.

There are a few important properties of these elementary forms. The first is that they are C^∞ . The second is that if ω is a k-form, then we can write the k-tensor $\omega(x)$ uniquely as

$$\omega(x) = \sum_{[I]} b_I(x) \tilde{\psi}_I(x)$$

for some scalar functions $b_I(x)$, which we call components.

We now define something called the differential of a 0-form.

Convention:

Henceforth, we restrict ourselves to manifolds, maps, and forms of class C^∞

Definition 50 Exterior Derivative. Let A be open in \mathbb{R}^n . Let $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function of class C^r . We define a 1-form df on A by $df(x)(x, v)$ by

$$df(x)(x, v) = f'(x, v) = Df(x) \cdot v$$

Where $Df(x)$ denotes the derivative of f at x . Note that here, we are assigning a 1-tensor $df(x)$ to the point x and v is an input to $df(x)$. The 1-form is called the differential of f and is of class C^{r-1} . Now we define d on k-forms for $k > 0$. If ω is a k-form, we can write it uniquely as

$$\omega = \sum_{[I]} f_I dx_I$$

and define

$$d\omega = \sum_{[I]} df_I \wedge dx_I$$

We denote the set of all C^∞ k-forms by $\Omega^k(A)$

The differential(d) operator has some nice properties. For instance, it has an analogue of the product rule but it also has the property that the second differential vanishes.

Lemma 51. 1. The operator d is linear on 0-forms

2. The operator d is linear on k-forms for $k > 0$

Theorem 52. Let A be an open set in \mathbb{R}^n . There exists a unique linear transformation

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

defined for $k \geq 0$ such that

1. If ω and ν are of orders k and ℓ respectively, then

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

2. For every form ω ,

$$d(d\omega) = 0$$

We now are only missing one more piece of the puzzle before we will have arrived at integration, and that is the pullback.

Definition 53 Pullback. Let A be open in \mathbb{R}^k , let $\alpha : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be of class C^∞ , let B be an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing $\alpha(A)$. We define a dual transformation of forms (Pullback) $\alpha^* : \Omega^\ell(B) \rightarrow \Omega^\ell(A)$ as follows: Given an ℓ -form ω on B with $\ell > 0$, we define an ℓ -form $\alpha^*\omega$ on A by the equation

$$(\alpha^*\omega)(x)((x, v_1), \dots, (x, v_\ell)) = \omega(\alpha(x))(\alpha_*(x, v_1), \dots, \alpha_*(x, v_\ell))$$

The following theorem is useful primarily for computational purposes, although it does get used in the proofs as well.

Theorem 54. Let A be open in \mathbb{R}^k , let $\alpha : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a C^∞ map. Let B be open in \mathbb{R}^m and contain $\alpha(A)$, let $\beta : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a C^∞ map. Let ω, η, θ be forms defined in an open set C of \mathbb{R}^n containing $\beta(B)$, assume ω and η have the same order. The transformations α^* and β^* have the following properties:

1. $\beta^*(a\omega + b\eta) = a(\beta^*\omega) + b(\beta^*\eta)$
2. $\beta^*(\omega \wedge \theta) = \beta^*\omega \wedge \beta^*\theta$
3. $(\beta \circ \alpha)^*\omega = \alpha^*(\beta^*\omega)$

We have all of this theory, but we still don't really have a simple way to compute the pullback for elementary k -forms, which we rectify with the following theorem.

Theorem 55. Let A be open in \mathbb{R}^k , let $\alpha : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a C^∞ map. Let x denote the general point of \mathbb{R}^k , let y denote the general point of \mathbb{R}^n . Then dx_i and dy_i denote the elementary 1-forms in \mathbb{R}^k and \mathbb{R}^n respectively.

1. $\alpha^*(dy_i) = d\alpha_i$
2. If $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ is an ascending k -tuple from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$, then

$$\alpha^*(dy_I) = \left(\det \frac{\partial \alpha_I}{\partial x} \right) dx_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_k,$$

where

$$\frac{\partial \alpha_I}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial(\alpha_{i_1}, \dots, \alpha_{i_k})}{\partial(x_1, \dots, x_k)}$$

However, note that even with this theorem, it is still difficult to compute $\alpha^*(dy_I)$ for larger k values, where $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$. We simplify this task using the below theorem.

Theorem 56. Let A be open in \mathbb{R}^k , let $\alpha : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be of class C^∞ . If ω is an ℓ -form defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing $\alpha(A)$, then

$$\alpha^*(d\omega) = d(\alpha^*\omega)$$

1.3 Integrating Forms Over Manifolds

To start off here, we need to first define what the integral of a form over an oriented manifold is. To do so, we first define the integral over a subset of \mathbb{R}^k .

Definition 57 Integral of a Form over a Subset of \mathbb{R}^n . Let $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open, let η be a k -form defined in A . Then η can be written uniquely as

$$\eta = \sum_I f_i dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_k}$$

However, since the integral is linear, we will only need to consider the k -form $\eta = f dx_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_k$. We define the integral of such an η over A by

$$\int_A \eta = \int_A f$$

if the latter integral exists

This gives new meaning to $\int f dx$, we now see $f dx$ as a 1-form, thus giving the dx a use.

Definition 58 Integral of a Form over a Manifold with Boundary. Let M be a compact oriented k -manifold with boundary in \mathbb{R}^n . let ω be a k -form defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing M . Let $C = M \cap (\text{support } \omega)$, then C is compact. Suppose there is a coordinate patch $\alpha : U \rightarrow V$ on M belonging to the orientation of M such that $C \subset V$. By replacing U with a smaller set if necessary, we can assume that U is bounded. We define the integral of ω over M by

$$\int_M \omega = \int_{\text{int } U} \alpha^* \omega$$

Here, $\text{int } U = U$ if U is open in \mathbb{R}^k , and $\text{int } U = U \cap \mathbb{H}_+^k$ if U is open in \mathbb{H}^k but not in \mathbb{R}^k

Notice that we can write $\alpha^*(\omega)$ as $h dx_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_k$ for some C^∞ scalar function h . Thus by definition,

$$\int_{\text{int } U} \alpha^* \omega = \int_{\text{int } U} h$$

It can be shown that h is indeed integrable over U and thus also over $\text{int } U$ as well as $\int_M \omega$ being well-defined, and independent of choice of coordinate patch.

You may have noticed that this definition isn't for the general case. For the general case we use partitions of unity.

Definition 59 Integration of Forms over Oriented Manifolds with Boundary. Let M be a compact oriented k -manifold with boundary in \mathbb{R}^n . Let ω be a k -form defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing M . Cover M by coordinate patches belonging to the orientation of M , then choose a partition of unity ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_ℓ on M that is dominated by this collection of charts on M . We define the integral of ω over M by

$$\int_M \omega = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\int_M \phi_i \omega \right)$$

Following this definition, we have the usual properties of the integral, given by the following theorem.

Theorem 60. Let M be a compact oriented k -manifold in \mathbb{R}^n . Let ω, η be k -forms defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing M . Then

$$\int_M (a\omega + b\eta) = a \int_M \omega + b \int_M \eta$$

If $-M$ denotes M with the opposite orientation, then

$$\int_{-M} \omega = - \int_M \omega$$

While this suffices for theoretical purposes, for computational purposes we must introduce another theorem.

Theorem 61. Let M be a compact oriented k -manifold in \mathbb{R}^n . Let ω be a k -form defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing M . Suppose that $\alpha_i : A_i \rightarrow M$, for $i = 1, \dots, N$, is a coordinate patch on M belonging to the orientation of M , such that A_i is open in \mathbb{R}^k and M is the disjoint union of the open sets M_1, \dots, M_N of M and a set K of measure zero in M . Then

$$\int_M \omega = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\int_{A_i} \alpha_i^* \omega \right)$$

We are now left in a position to understand the statement of Generalized Stokes'.

Theorem 62. Let $k > 1$. Let M be a compact oriented k -manifold in \mathbb{R}^n give ∂M the induced orientation if ∂M is not empty. Let ω be a $k-1$ form defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^n containing M . Then

$$\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$$

if ∂M is nonempty and $\int_M d\omega = 0$ if ∂M is empty.

We can use Generalized Stokes' to rederive Green's Theorem, all we need to do in this case is to show that for a compact 2-manifold M oriented naturally, with ∂M being given the induced orientation, that for a 1-form $Pdx + Qdy$ defined in an open set of \mathbb{R}^2 about M ,

$$\int_{\partial M} Pdx + Qdy = \int_M (D_1Q - D_2P)dx \wedge dy$$

which follows immediately from Generalized Stokes'. Generalized Stokes' is hidden behind a mountain of definitions and results and we end up with this unassuming result. However, with our rushed approach with a single goal in mind, we have neglected the many other tools we've developed. In the next part, we discuss a use of all this terminology by generalizing Gauss-Bonnet using some of it. However, this application to differential geometry extends far beyond just Gauss-Bonnet. You can in fact extend much of Differential Geometry with it. Using this

language of forms brings us into the math of the 20th century, with its most famous application being General Relativity. [5] talks about many of the applications of forms in differential geometry. It uses a phrase to describe this abstract machinery which nicely encapsulates it. They call it "The Devil's Machine", it takes away geometric insight and much visual insight but in return gives an amazingly effective tool.

Something which has not been mentioned here until now is the seemingly bizarre definition given for induced orientation. It is defined the way it does because as it turns out, changing dimensions is like playing hopscotch with the normal vector field on the boundary. This definition was given so that the normal field would stay consistent even as we switched dimensions. A major limitation on this section is that we stay in \mathbb{R}^n , and there are certainly more manifolds and much more out there but we stayed in \mathbb{R}^n because it gets vastly more complicated when we leave, [3] covers such a case along with many more topics.

1.4 Gauss-Bonnet Theorem

More connected to differential geometry, we can introduce a vast generalization of the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem. To do so, we will need to generalize surfaces to hypersurfaces and introduce some new terminology. This will be very short with just a brief look into it. The main books used here are [2] and [3], although [4] is also used sometimes.

We begin by defining a hypersurface. To do so, we use another approach to tangent spaces and tangent vectors called derivations. At first glance, it doesn't seem to have any connection to the tangent vector we are familiar with, however, all directional derivatives are secretly a derivation. In fact, the connection runs even deeper than this.

Definition 63 Derivation. Let M be a smooth manifold with boundary. A linear map $v : C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called a derivation at p if $v(fg) = f(p)vg + g(p)vf$ for all $f, g \in C^\infty(M)$. The set of all derivations of $C^\infty(M)$ at p , is the tangent space to M at p , with any derivation being called a tangent vector at p .

It's a bit confusing but it's useful. Now we define something called the differential.

Definition 64 Differential. Let M, N be smooth manifolds with boundary and $F : M \rightarrow N$ a smooth map. For each $p \in M$ we define a map $dF_p : T_pM \rightarrow T_{F(p)}N$ called the differential of F at p as follows. Given $v \in T_pM$, we let $dF_p(v)$ be the derivation at $F(p)$ that acts on $f \in C^\infty(N)$ by the rule

$$dF_p(v)(f) = v(f \circ F)$$

Now we can define an immersion, which is essentially asking "What is the most we can ask for from a mapping between manifolds of different dimensions?"

Definition 65 Immersion. Let X, Y be manifolds with $\dim(X) < \dim(Y)$. Then, we call f an immersion at x if the differential is injective at x . If this is true for every point, we simply call f an immersion.

Definition 66 Hypersurface. Let M be a manifold with boundary and N a manifold such that $\dim M - \dim N = 1$. Given an injective immersion $f : N \rightarrow M$, $f(N)$ is a hypersurface in M .

We define the curvature as the Jacobian determinant of the Gauss map. We can now state this version of the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem

Theorem 67. If X is a compact, even-dimensional hypersurface in \mathbb{R}^{k+1} , then

$$\int_X \kappa = \frac{1}{2} y_k \chi(X)$$

where y_k is the surface area of the unit k -sphere \mathbb{S}^k and $\chi(X)$ is the Euler Characteristic of X .

There are however even more general versions of this theorem.

By setting $k = 2$, we get

$$\int_X \kappa = \frac{1}{2} 4\pi \chi(X) = 2\pi \chi(X)$$

which is the familiar Gauss-Bonnet Theorem.

References

- [1] https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/18-101-analysis-ii-fall-2005/babd982be745679b6d691f78b1c18f53_lectures.pdf. 2005.
- [2] Victor Guillemin and Alan Pollack. *Differential Topology*. Prentice-Hall, 1974.
- [3] John M. Lee. *Introduction to Smooth Manifolds*. Springer, 2012.
- [4] James R. Munkres. *Analysis on Manifolds*. CRC Press, 1997.
- [5] Tristan Needham. *Visual Differential Geometry and Forms*. Princeton Press, 2021.
- [6] Michael Spivak. *Calculus on Manifolds: A Modern Approach to Classical Theorems of Advanced Calculus*. Perseus Books Publishing, 1971.