1 Algebraic Topology

Definition 1.1 (de Rham complex)**.** Ω^* is the algebra generated over $\mathbb{R}$ by $dx_1, \ldots, dx_n$ subject to
1. $(dx_i)^2 = 0$,
2. $dx_i dx_j = -dx_j dx_i, i \neq j$.

The C^∞ differential forms on $\mathbb{R}$ are elements of

$$\Omega^*(\mathbb{R}^n) = \{C^\infty \text{ functions on } \mathbb{R}^n\} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \Omega^*. \tag{1}$$

We have $\Omega^*(\mathbb{R}^n) = \oplus_{q=0}^n \Omega^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$, where $\Omega^q(\mathbb{R}^n)$ consists of the C^∞ q-forms on $\mathbb{R}^n$. We define

$$d : \Omega^q(\mathbb{R}^n) \to \Omega^{q+1}(\mathbb{R}^n), \tag{2}$$

the exterior differentiation, by
1. if $f \in \Omega^0(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $df = \sum \partial f/\partial x_i \, dx_i$,
2. if $\omega = \sum f_I dx_I$, then $d\omega = \sum df_I dx_I$, where $dx_I = dx_i dx_j \ldots$.

The wedge product is defined by

$$\tau \wedge \omega = \sum \tau_I \omega_J \, dx_I dx_J = (-1)^{\deg\tau \deg\omega} \omega \wedge \tau. \tag{3}$$

Proposition 1.2. d is an antiderivation,

$$d(\tau \wedge \omega) = (d\tau) \wedge \omega + (-1)^{\deg\tau} \tau \wedge d\omega. \tag{4}$$

Proposition 1.3. $d^2 = 0$.

Definition 1.4. The q-th de Rham cohomology of $\mathbb{R}^n$ is the vector space

$$H^q(\mathbb{R}^n) = \{\text{closed } q\text{-forms}\}/\{\text{exact } q\text{-forms}\}, \tag{5}$$

where closed means in the kernel of d and exact means in the image of d. We denote by $[\omega]$ the cohomology class of ω.

Remark. Only the constant functions are relevant for $\mathbb{R}^n$,

$$H^*(\mathbb{R}^n) = \begin{cases} R & \text{in dimension 0,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

Definition 1.5. A differential complex is a direct sum of Vector spaces $C = \oplus_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} C^q$ if there are homomorpisms

$$\ldots \longrightarrow C^{q-1} \xrightarrow{d} C^i \xrightarrow{d} C^{q+1} \longrightarrow \ldots$$

with $d^2 = 0$. The cohomology of C is given by $H(C) = \oplus_{q\in\mathbb{Z}} H^q(C)$, with

$$H^q(C) = (\ker d \cap C^q)/(\text{im } d \cap C^q). \tag{7}$$

A map $f : A \to B$ between two differential complexes is a chain map it it commutes with the differential operators of A and B, $f d_A = d_B f$. A sequence of vector spaces

$$\ldots \longrightarrow V_{q-1} \xrightarrow{f_{i-1}} V_i \xrightarrow{f_i} V_{q+1} \longrightarrow \ldots$$

is said to be exact if the image of f_{i-1} is the kernel of f_i. An exact sequence of the form

$$0 \longrightarrow A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \longrightarrow 0$$

is called a short exact sequence. Note that f is injective and g surjective. If f, g are chain maps, there is a long exact sequence of cohomology groups

$$\begin{tikzcd} & H^{q+1}(A) \arrow[r, "f^*"] & \ldots \\ H^q(A) \arrow[r, "f^*"] & H^q(B) \arrow[r, "g^*"] & H^q(C) \arrow[llu, bend right, "d^*"'] \end{tikzcd}$$

f^*, g^* are the naturally induced maps and $d^*[c]$ is obtained through the commutative diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} 0 \arrow[r] & A^{q+1} \arrow[r, "f"] & B^{q+1} \arrow[r, "g"] & C^{q+1} \arrow[r] & 0 \\ 0 \arrow[r] & A^q \arrow[r, "f"] \arrow[u, "d"] & B^q \arrow[r, "g"] \arrow[u, "d"] & C^q \arrow[r] \arrow[u, "d"] & 0 \end{tikzcd}$$

Since g is surjective there is $b \in B^q$ with $g(b) = c$. Because $g(db) = d(gb) = dc = 0$, there is $a \in A^{q+1}$ with $db = f(a)$. Then $d^*[c] := [a]$. a is closed because f is injective. To see that the sequence is exact, note that if b is closed then $f(a) = 0$, and due to injectivity $a = 0$. On the other hand, $f(a)$ is exact and therefore $[f(a)] = 0$.

Definition 1.6. $\Omega_c^*(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is the de Rham complex for functions of compact support, $H_c^*(\mathbb{R})$ is its cohomology.

Remark. Only the n-forms whose integrals are different from zero are relevant, since if it was zero then its antiderivative can have compact support,

$$H_c^*(\mathbb{R}^n) = \begin{cases} R & \text{in dimension n,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{8}$$