

1 Algebraic Topology

Definition 1.1 (de Rham complex). Ω^* is the algebra generated over \mathbb{R} by dx_1, \dots, 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

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

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

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

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 $dx_I = dx_i dx_j \dots$

The wedge product is defined by

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

Proposition 1.2. d is an antiderivation,

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

Proposition 1.3. $d^2 = 0$.

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

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

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 .

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

$$0 \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow 0$$

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

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^{q+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{f^*} & \dots & & \\ & \nearrow d^* & & & \\ H^q(A) & \xrightarrow{f^*} & H^q(B) & \xrightarrow{g^*} & H^q(C) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & A^{q+1} & \xrightarrow{f} & B^{q+1} & \xrightarrow{g} & C^{q+1} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \uparrow d & & \uparrow d & & \uparrow d & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A^q & \xrightarrow{f} & B^q & \xrightarrow{g} & C^q & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$