

1.1 Introduction to package dgeom

Note: This package does not contain support for differential forms. The 'cartan' package in core Maxima provides some basic support for forms. This package should be considered an add-on to the 'ctensor' package in core Maxima, providing further functionality for some tensor calculations, as well as some standard differential geometry tools.

The **dgeom** package provides some basic functions useful for exploring metrics and manifolds. In particular coordinate transformations that allow one to define embedded manifolds in flat space. The package also provides more general tools for computing metrics after a coordinate transformation. This package was designed to be compatible with the **ctensor** package included with core Maxima.

Major capabilities of **dgeom** include:

- The **dgeom** package computes the frame field connections for an embedded surface using frames defined by the attitude matrix. See the function **dg_ffc()**.
- Computation a new metric from an old metric where the old metric is not δ (identity) or η (Minkowski). This is especially useful for stringing together several coordinate transformations when studying a metric.
- Computation of the Killing vector equations from the metric using **dg_kill()**.

The basic use of the package begins by defining the coordinates in the variables **cords_in**, **cords_tr**, and **cords_ot**. This can be done manually or by using the built-in function **dg_cords**.

In a typical session, one should first call **dg_cords(all)** to see the available coordinate systems and then choose one, or set up the coordinates by hand. Second, call **dg_metric()** to compute the metric in the new coordinates. **dgeom** can calculate the divergence, gradient, curl ($d=3$ only), and Laplacian in any coordinate system you can define. It also defines them as functions you can then call if you want to use them in a computation. These computations are available in the functions **dg_diverg()**, **dg_grad()**, **dg_curl()**, and **dg_laplace()**.

Note: It helps to simplify the resulting formulas by restricting coordinate ranges. For example, if studying the sphere one should use **assume(theta>0,theta<%pi)** and **assume(r>0)**. These are set automatically in the package, but for coordinate systems input by hand one should consider setting the ranges manually.

The **dgeom** package is compatible with the **ctensor** package. Coordinates defined in **dgeom** can be used for computations in the **ctensor** package such as the Christoffel symbols, the Riemann tensor and so forth. See the function **set_ctensor_vars** for more information.

version: 0.1

Eric Majzoub, Jan 2026

1.2 Functions and Variables for dgeom

cord_in

[Variable]

Input coordinates are given as a list in the variable **cord_in**.

cord_ot

[Variable]

Output coordinates are given as a list in the variable **cord_ot**.

cord_tr [Variable]
 Coordinate transformations are given as a list in the variable `cord_tr`.
`cord_tr: [r*sin(theta)*cos(phi), r*sin(theta)*sin(phi), r*cos(theta)].`

dg_minkowski [Variable]
 The variable `dg_minkowski` (default value: 1) determines whether the metric in the output coordinates `cords_ot` is computed with a Minkowski signature. This variable is set automatically for the predefined coordinate transformations 'rindler'. If defining coordinates in Minkowski signature without using the function `dg_cords`, the timelike coordinate must be the first element in the list for both `cords_in` and `cords_ot`.

dg_cords (coordinate system) [Function]
 The function `dg_cords` takes a predefined coordinate system name and sets the variables `cords_in`, `cords_tr`, `cords_ot`. `cords_in` are the input coordinates, `cords_tr` are the transformation functions to the new or output coordinates, and `cords_ot` are the output coordinates. To see the available predefined coordinate systems use `dg_cords(all)`.

```
(%i1) dg_cords(rindler);
(%o1)
(%i2) show_cords();
          cords_in = [t, x]

          cords_tr = [sinh(omega) rho, cosh(omega) rho]

          cords_ot = [omega, rho]

          dg_minkowski = - 1

(%o2)
(%i3) dg_metric(init);
          2           2
          ds2_in = del (x) - del (t)

          2           2   2
          ds2 = del (rho) - rho del (omega)

(%o3)
```

show_cords () [Function]
 The function `show_cords` takes no arguments. It displays the variables `cord_in`, `cord_tr`, `cord_ot`, and `dg_minkowski`.

dg_derivs () [Function]
 This function takes no arguments, but the input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [dg_cords], page 2. The function `dg_derivs` computes the partial derivative functions of the output coordinates in terms of the input coordinates using the transformation functions. For example, for input coordinates `[x,y,z]`, and output

coordinates `[r,phi,z]`, and using the predefined cylindrical coordinate transformation `xyz_to_cyl`, one obtains the partial derivatives with respect to (x,y,z) in terms of the partial derivatives with respect to the variables (r,ϕ,z) .

The resulting partial derivative functions are named according to the input variable names, in the following notation. The partial derivative with respect to x is denoted `d_dx`, and likewise for the other input coordinates. The functions are defined with argument names generated by `gensym`.

```
(%i1) dg_cords(xyz_to_cyl);
(%o1)                                         done
(%i2) dg_derivs();
(%o2)                                         done
(%i3) fundef(d_dx);
(%o3)          
$$\frac{dF}{d\phi} = \sin(\phi) + \frac{\cos(\phi)}{dr}$$

```

`dg_metric ([init,cnrvrt])` [Function]

This function takes as argument `init` or `cnrvrt`. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [`dg_cords`], page 2. The function `dg_metric` computes the metric in terms of the output coordinates `cords_out`. If `dg_metric` is called with the argument `init` then the function assumes the input metric is diagonal with unit entries, although `dg_minkowski` may be set to -1 for the time component. If `dg_metric` is called with the argument `cnrvrt`, then the function assumes there is an initial metric given in the matrix `lg_in` with the ordering of the entries in accordance with the ordering of the variables in `cords_in`. The value of `dg_minkowski` is ignored for this case. `dg_metric` returns the line element ds^2 in the variable `ds2`, and the metric in the matrix `g`.

```
(%i1) dg_cords(xyz_to_spher);
(%o1)                                         done
(%i2) dg_metric(init);
(%o2)          
$$ds2_{in} = \delta^{zz} + \delta^{yy} + \delta^{xx}$$


$$ds2 = r^2 \delta^{theta theta} + r^2 \sin^2(theta) \delta^{phi phi}$$

```

The following example illustrates the conversion of the Rindler metric to new coordinates that mimic the Schwarzschild metric.

```

(%i1) cords_in:[omega,rho];
(%o1)                               [omega, rho]
(%i2) cords_ot:[t,xi];
(%o2)                               [t, xi]
(%i3) cords_tr:[t/2,2*sqrt(xi)];
(%o3)                               [t, 2 sqrt(xi)]
(%i4) lg_in:matrix([-rho^2,0],[0,1]);
(%o4)                               [ - rho^2   0 ]
                                         [           ]
                                         [         ]
                                         [ 0       1 ]
(%i5) dg_metric(cnvrt);
ds2_in = del (rho)^2 - rho del (omega)^2

ds2 = 
$$\frac{\text{del}(\text{xi})^2}{\text{xi}} - \text{xi} \text{del}(t)^2$$


(%o5) done

dg_grad ( ) [Function]
This function takes no arguments. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [dg_cords], page 2. The function dg_grad returns an expression for the gradient of a function F in the output coordinates cord_ot.

(%i1) dg_cords(xyz_to_spher);
(%o1) done
(%i2) dg_grad();
(%o2) dg_gra(F) := 
$$\frac{dF}{r \sin(\theta)} e_\phi + \frac{dF}{r} e_\theta + \frac{dF}{dr} e_r$$


dg_curl ([1,2]) [Function]
This function takes no arguments. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [dg_cords], page 2. The curl function is limited to d=3 dimensions. If the argument to dg_curl is 1, then the curl is computed in the physical basis (found in most intro textbooks). If the argument is 2 the curl is computed in the coordinate basis using the metric tensor.
```

The function dg_curl returns a function dg_cur(W) that takes vector argument W and returns the curl in terms of the output coordinates cord_ot.

```

(%i1) dg_cords(cart3d);
(%o1)
(%i2) dg_curl(1);

$$\text{ds2\_in} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$


$$\text{ds2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$


curl in physical basis
(%o2) dg_cur(W_x, W_y, W_z) := [-----, -----, -----]

$$\frac{\partial W_z}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial W_y}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial W_x}{\partial x}$$

(%i3) dg_cords(xyz_to_cyl);
(%o3)
(%i4) dg_curl(1);

$$\text{ds2\_in} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$


$$\text{ds2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + r \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$


curl in physical basis
(%o4) dg_cur(W_r, W_phi, W_z) := [-----, -----, -----]

$$\frac{\partial W_z}{\partial \phi}, \frac{\partial W_phi}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial W_r}{\partial r}$$


$$\frac{\partial W_r}{\partial \phi}, \frac{\partial W_phi}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial W_z}{\partial dr}$$


```

dg_diverg ([1,2]) [Function]

This function takes no arguments. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [dg_cords], page 2. If the argument to **dg_diverg** is 1, then the divergence is computed in the physical basis (found in most intro textbooks). If the argument is 2 the divergence is computed in the coordinate basis using the metric tensor.

The function **dg_diverg** returns a function **dg_div(W)** that takes argument **W** and returns the divergence in terms of the output coordinates **cord_ot**. The function **dg_metric** must be called before calling **dg_diverg**.

```

(%i1) dg_cords(xyz_to_cyl);
(%o1)
(%i2) dg_metric(init);

$$ds^2_{in} = \partial_z^2 + \partial_y^2 + \partial_x^2$$


$$ds^2 = \partial_z^2 + \partial_r^2 + r^2 \partial_\phi^2$$

(%o2)
(%i3) dg_diverg(1);
divergence in physical basis

$$\frac{dW_\phi}{dr}$$


$$dg\_div(W_r, W_\phi, W_z) := \frac{W_r}{r} + \frac{d\phi}{r} + \frac{dW_z}{dz} + \frac{dW_r}{dr}$$


```

dg_laplac () [Function]

This function takes no arguments. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [dg_cords], page 2.

The function `dg_laplac` returns a function `dg_lap(W)` that takes argument `W` and returns the Laplacian in terms of the output coordinates `cord_out`. The function `dg_metric` must be called before calling `dg_laplac`.

```

(%i1) dg_cords(xyz_to_cyl);
(%o1)
(%i2) dg_metric(init);

$$ds^2_{in} = \partial_z^2 + \partial_y^2 + \partial_x^2$$


$$ds^2 = \partial_z^2 + \partial_r^2 + r^2 \partial_\phi^2$$

(%o2)
(%i3) dg_laplac();

$$dg\_lap(F) := \frac{\frac{d^2 F}{dz^2} + \frac{d^2 F}{dr^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{dF}{dr} + \frac{d^2 F}{d\phi^2}}{r^2}$$


```

dg_ffc ([constraint equations]) [Function]

Compute the frame field connections. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [dg_cords], page 2.

The function **dg_ffc** computes the attitude matrix **A**, the connection coefficients in the matrix **Omega**, and the dual 1-forms in the array **thi**. Any constraint equations given are imposed after calculating the attitude matrix.

The structural equations are computed by first computing the matrices **TT[i,j]: thi[i] . thi[j]**, and **DD[i,j]: diff(Omega[i,j])**, and then computing **KK[i,j]** by solving $domega(i,j) = K thi(i) * thi(j)$.

```
(%i1) dg_cords(xyz_to_cyl);
(%o1)
(%i2) dg_ffc([r = 1]);
(%o2)
(%i3) A;
(%o3)
(%i4) Omega;
(%o4)
(%i5) thi;
(%o5)
```

dg_kill ([none,show]) [Function]

The function **dg_kill** computes the Killing equations. The metric must be computed with **dg_metric** before this function is called. If called with **dis=show** then the killing equations will be shown, otherwise they can be accessed in the array **killeq**.

```

(%i1) dg_cords(mink2d);
(%o1)
(%i2) dg_metric(init);

$$ds^2_{in} = \partial_x^2 - \partial_t^2$$


$$ds^2 = \partial_x^2 - \partial_t^2$$

(%o2)
(%i3) dg_kill(show);

$$\text{killeq}_{1,1} = -\frac{2}{dt}(\partial_{(xi)})$$


$$\text{killeq}_{1,2} = -\frac{\partial_x}{dt}(\partial_{(xi)}) - \frac{\partial_t}{dx}(\partial_{(xi)})$$


$$\text{killeq}_{2,2} = \frac{2}{dx}(\partial_{(xi)})$$

(%o3)

```

get_ctensor_vars () [Function]

This command is used to set the **dgeom** coordinate variables from those defined in the **ctensor** package. This command sets the **dgeom** coordinate variable **cord_ot** to the **ctensor** variable **ct_cords**. Then sets the lower indexed metric **lg** to the metric **g**. The **ctensor** package must be loaded and the metric computed for this command to work.

set_ctensor_vars ([init,cnrv]) [Function]

This function takes as argument *init* or *cnrv*. The input and output coordinates and the transformation functions must be defined beforehand for this function to work. See the function [**dg_cords**], page 2. See [**dg_metric**], page 3, for a description of the options *init* and *cnrv*. This command is used to set up the calculation of the Christoffel symbols using the **ctensor** package using the coordinates and transformation functions from the **dgeom** package. The Christoffel symbols are the connections in the coordinate frame, as opposed to the frame-field connection coefficients computed using the function **dg_ffc**. The function **set_ctensor_vars** sets the following **ctensor** variables: **cframe_flag:false**, **dim**, and calls **ct_coorsys()**. The **ctensor** package must be loaded for this command to work.

Example: Compute the Christoffel symbols for flat space in polar coordinates.

```

(%i1) load(ctensor)$
(%i2) dg_cords(xy_to_polar);
(%o2)                                done
(%i3) set_ctensor_vars(init);
                               2           2
ds2_in = del (y) + del (x)

                               2           2           2
ds2 = r   del (theta) + del (r)

ctlist = [r cos(theta), r sin(theta), [r, theta]]

(%o3)                                done
(%i4) christoff(mcs);
                               2           1
(%t4) mcs      = -
                               1, 2       r

                               1
(%t5) mcs      = - r
                               2, 2

(%o5)                                done

```

Appendix A Function and Variable index

D

dg_cords	2
dg_curl	4
dg_derivs	2
dg_diverg	5
dg_ffc	7
dg_grad	4
dg_kill	7
dg_laplac	6

dg_metric	3
-----------------	---

G

get_ctensor_vars	8
------------------------	---

S

set_ctensor_vars	8
show_cords	2

C

cord_in	1
cord_ot	1
cord_tr	2

D

dg_minkowski	2
--------------------	---