

Stokes' Theorem

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If ω is a C^1 $(k-1)$ -form on a neighborhood of a compact oriented manifold M , then $\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega$ with the induced orientation on ∂M .

Proof: Focus on the special case where $\text{supp } \omega \subset V \xleftarrow{\alpha} U$ for orientation-preserving coordinate patch α , we get the general case with finite sums. For

$$\widetilde{\alpha^* \omega} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \alpha^* \omega & \text{on } U \\ 0 & \text{on } \mathbb{H}^k \setminus U \end{cases}$$

$$\int_M d\omega = \int_U \alpha^* d\omega = \int_U d(\alpha^* \omega) = \int_{\mathbb{H}^k} d(\widetilde{\alpha^* \omega})$$

Also note: $\int_{\partial M} \omega = \int_{U \cap \partial \mathbb{H}^k} \widetilde{\alpha^* \omega}$, so we can write

$$\widetilde{\alpha^* \omega} = f_1 dx_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_k + f_2 dx_1 \wedge dx_3 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_k + \cdots + f_k dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_{k-1}$$

Thus,

$$d(\widetilde{\alpha^* \omega}) = (D_1 f_1 - D_2 f_2 + \cdots + (-1)^{k-1} D_k f_k) dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_k$$

So $\int_{\mathbb{H}^k} d(\widetilde{\alpha^* \omega}) = \int_{\mathbb{H}^k} D_1 f_1 - D_2 f_2 + \cdots + (-1)^{k-1} D_k f_k$.

Replacing \mathbb{H}^k with the box defined by $a_1 \leq x_1 \leq b_1, \dots, a_k \leq x_k \leq b_k$ (where $a_k = 0$), such that every corner of the box is outside of U , yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{H}^k} d(\widetilde{\alpha^* \omega}) &= \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} D_1 f_1 - D_2 f_2 + \cdots + (-1)^{k-1} D_k f_k \\ (\text{Fubini}) &= \int_{a_2}^{b_2} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} \int_{a_1}^{b_1} D_1 f_1 - \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} D_2 f_2 + \cdots + \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} \int_{a_{k-1}}^{b_{k-1}} D_{k-1} f_{k-1} + \int_{\mathbb{H}^k} D_k f_k \\ (\text{FTC}) &= \int_{a_2}^{b_2} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} (f_1(b_1) - f_1(a_1)) - \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} (f_2(b_2) - f_2(a_2)) + \cdots + \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \cdots \int_{a_k}^{b_k} (f_{k-1}(b_{k-1}) - f_{k-1}(a_{k-1})) + \int_{\mathbb{H}^k} D_k f_k \\ &= 0 - 0 + \cdots + 0 + \int_{\mathbb{H}^k} D_k f_k \\ (\text{FTC}) &= (-1)^{k-1} (-1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k-1}} f_k dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_{k-1} \\ &= \cancel{(-1)^k} \cancel{(-1)^k} \int_{\partial \mathbb{H}^k} f_k dx_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx_{k-1} \quad ((-1)^k \text{ comes from the induced orientation}) \\ &= \int_{\partial \mathbb{H}^k} \alpha^* \omega \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Revisiting Examples from Wednesday:

Ex: Sphere S^2

$$\int_{S^2} dx \wedge dy = \int_{\partial S^2} x dy = 0$$

$$\int_{S^2} x dx \wedge dy = \int_{\partial S^2} \frac{x^2}{2} dy = 0$$

$$\int_{S^2} z dx \wedge dy = \int_{B^2(1)} d(z dx \wedge dy) = \int_{B^2(1)} dz \wedge dx \wedge dy = \frac{4\pi}{3}$$

Ex: $M = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 = 1, 0 \leq z \leq 1\}$, $\omega = \frac{-y dx + x dy}{x^2 + y^2} = "d\theta"$ (so $d\omega = 0$).

Then $\int_M d\omega = \int_{\partial M} \omega = 2\pi - 2\pi = 0$, which is as expected, since $\int_M 0 = 0$.

Long List of Orientation Special Cases

(1) $M^{n\text{-mfd}} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. Use standard orientation of \mathbb{R}^n to get standard orientation of M .

(2) X oriented $(n-1)$ -mfd in \mathbb{R}^n (perhaps $X = \partial M$ for some M n -mfd).

Related question: sorting out "inside" vs "outside".

Recall: $\mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}}X$ is the column space of $D\alpha(\vec{q})$ (for $\vec{q} = \alpha^{-1}(\vec{p})$). $\dim \mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}}X = n-1$.

Defn: $N_{\vec{p}}X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}}X)^\perp$ is called the normal space, and has dimension 1.

(2) (continued) Pick $\vec{N}(\vec{p}) \in N_{\vec{p}}X$ s.t. $\|\vec{N}(\vec{p})\| = 1$ and $\det(\vec{N}(\vec{p})|D\alpha(\vec{p})) > 0$ (\star).

Convince yourself that this is independent of choice of orientation-preserving coordinate patch α , and that $X \subset C^r \Rightarrow \vec{N}(\vec{p}) \in C^{r-1}(X, \mathbb{R}^n)$. (For the latter, see p315.)

Conversely, given a coice of unit normal vector field for X , use (\star) as a criterion for α to be orientation-preserving, and get an orientation for X .

(2a) $X = \partial M^{n\text{-mfd}}$. Special case: $M = \mathbb{H}^n$. Then $\vec{N}(\vec{p}) = -\vec{e}_n$ (exercise).

General case: $\vec{N}(\vec{p})$ points out of M , i.e., $\vec{p} + \vec{N}(\vec{p}) \notin M$ for $0 < t < \varepsilon$.