

Solved Exercises of chapter 5 from D'Inverno
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1. In Euclidean 3-space \mathbb{R}^3 :

- (i) Write down the equation of a circle of radius a lying in the (x,y) -plane centred at the origin in (a) parametric form and (b) constraint form.

Solution:

Circle equation: $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$

Parametric form: $\begin{cases} x = t \\ y = \pm\sqrt{a^2 - t^2} \end{cases}$

Constraint form: $y = \pm\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$

- (ii) Write down the equation of a hypersurface consisting of a sphere of radius a centred at the origin in (a) parametric form and (b) constraint form. Eliminate the parameters in form (a) to obtain form (b).

Solution:

Sphere equation: $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$

Parametric form: $\begin{cases} x = t \\ y = u \\ z = \pm\sqrt{a^2 - t^2 - u^2} \end{cases}$

Constraint form: $z = \pm\sqrt{a^2 - x^2 - y^2}$

2. Write down the change of coordinates from Cartesian coordinates $(x^a) = (x, y, z)$ to spherical polar coordinates $(x'^a) = (r, \theta, \phi)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 . Obtain the transformation matrices $[\partial x^a / \partial x'^b]$ and $[\partial x'^a / \partial x^b]$ expressing them both in terms of the primed coordinates. Obtain the Jacobians J and J' . Where is J' zero or infinite?

Solution:

The spherical polar coordinates in terms of Cartesian ones:

$$r(x, y, z) := \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\theta(x, y, z) := \text{atan}\left(\frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{z}\right)$$

$$\phi(x, y, z) := \text{atan}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

Producing the transformation matrix:

$$\left[\frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^b}\right] = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x}{\sqrt{z^2 + y^2 + x^2}} & \frac{y}{\sqrt{z^2 + y^2 + x^2}} & \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + y^2 + x^2}} \\ \frac{xz}{\sqrt{y^2 + x^2}(z^2 + y^2 + x^2)} & \frac{yz}{\sqrt{y^2 + x^2}(z^2 + y^2 + x^2)} & -\frac{\sqrt{y^2 + x^2}}{z^2 + y^2 + x^2} \\ -\frac{y}{y^2 + x^2} & \frac{x}{y^2 + x^2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the Jacobian of the transformation is

$$J' = \left|\frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^b}\right| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{y^2 + x^2} \sqrt{z^2 + y^2 + x^2}} = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin(\theta)}$$

And the Cartesian coordinates in terms of spherical polar ones:

$$x(r, \theta, \phi) := r \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi)$$

$$y(r, \theta, \phi) := r \sin(\theta) \sin(\phi)$$

$$z(r, \theta, \phi) := r \cos(\theta)$$

Producing the transformation matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x^a}{\partial x'^b} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\phi) \sin(\theta) & \cos(\phi) r \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\phi) r \sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\phi) \sin(\theta) & \sin(\phi) r \cos(\theta) & \cos(\phi) r \sin(\theta) \\ \cos(\theta) & -r \sin(\theta) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the Jacobian of the transformation is

$$J = \left| \frac{\partial x^a}{\partial x'^b} \right| = r^2 \sin(\theta)$$

Observe that $J' \rightarrow 0$ when $r \rightarrow \infty$ and it diverges when $r \rightarrow 0$. But when $\theta \rightarrow 0$ or $\theta \rightarrow n\pi$, that is, on the poles, J' also diverges.

As we see, we confirm the product rule for the determinants that the Jacobian of the inverse transformation where $J = 1/J'$

3. Show by manipulating the dummy indices that

$$(Z_{abc} + Z_{cab} + Z_{bca}) X^a X^b X^c = 3Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c.$$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} (Z_{abc} + Z_{cab} + Z_{bca}) X^a X^b X^c &= Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c + Z_{cab} X^a X^b X^c + Z_{bca} X^a X^b X^c \quad (1) \\ &= Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c + Z_{cab} X^a X^b X^c + Z_{bca} X^a X^b X^c \quad (2) \\ &= Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c + Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c + Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c \quad (3) \\ &= 3Z_{abc} X^a X^b X^c \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

PS: From line 2 to 3 we switch in the second term $c \rightarrow a$, $a \rightarrow b$ and $b \rightarrow c$, in the third term $b \rightarrow a$, $c \rightarrow b$ and $a \rightarrow c$.

4. Show that:

$$(i) \delta_a^b X^a = X^b,$$

Solution:

$$\delta_a^b X^a = \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} X^a = \sum_{a=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} X^a = X^b$$

because

$$\sum_{a=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } a \neq b \\ 1 & \text{when } a = b \end{cases}$$

$$(ii) \delta_a^b X_b = X_a,$$

Solution:

$$\delta_a^b X_b = \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} X_b = \sum_{b=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} X_b = X_a$$

because

$$\sum_{b=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } b \neq a \\ 1 & \text{when } b = a \end{cases}$$

$$(iii) \delta_a^b \delta_b^c \delta_c^d = \delta_a^d.$$

Solution:

$$\delta_a^b \delta_b^c \delta_c^d = \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} \frac{\partial x^c}{\partial x^b} \frac{\partial x^d}{\partial x^c} = \sum_{b=1}^n \sum_{c=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} \frac{\partial x^c}{\partial x^b} \frac{\partial x^d}{\partial x^c} = \sum_{b=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} \frac{\partial x^d}{\partial x^b} = \frac{\partial x^d}{\partial x^a} = \delta_a^d$$

because

$$\sum_{c=1}^n \frac{\partial x^c}{\partial x^b} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } c \neq b \\ 1 & \text{when } c = b \end{cases}$$

and

$$\sum_{b=1}^n \frac{\partial x^b}{\partial x^a} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } b \neq a \\ 1 & \text{when } b = a \end{cases}$$

5. If Y^a and Z^a are contravariant vectors, then show that $Y^a Z^b$ is a contravariant vector of rank 2.

Solution:

$$Y'^a Z'^b = \frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^c} Y^c \frac{\partial x'^b}{\partial x^d} Z^d = \left(\frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^c} \frac{\partial x'^b}{\partial x^d} \right) Y^c Z^d$$

then, as we see above, $Y^a Z^b$ transform according to a contravariant tensor of rank 2.

PS: In term of components, we had have,

$$Y^a Z^b = \begin{pmatrix} Y^1 Z^1 & Y^1 Z^2 & \dots & Y^1 Z^n \\ Y^2 Z^1 & Y^2 Z^2 & \dots & Y^2 Z^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ Y^n Z^1 & Y^n Z^2 & \dots & Y^n Z^n \end{pmatrix}$$

with n^2 components, as expected.

6. Write down the change of coordinates from Cartesian coordinates $(x^a) = (x, y)$ to plane polar coordinates $(x'^a) = (R, \phi)$ in \mathbb{R}^2 and obtain the transformation matrix $\left[\frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^b} \right]$ expressed as a function of the primed coordinates. Find the components of the tangent vector to the curve consisting of a circle of radius a centred at origin with the standard parametrization (see exercise 5.1(i)) and use $X'^a = \frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^b} X^b$ to find its components in the primed coordinate system.

Solution:

The change of coordinates are:

$$R = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \quad (5)$$

$$\phi = \text{atan}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad (6)$$

The transformation matrix is

$$\left[\frac{\partial x'^a}{\partial x^b} \right] = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x}{\sqrt{y^2+x^2}} & \frac{y}{\sqrt{y^2+x^2}} \\ -\frac{y}{y^2+x^2} & \frac{x}{y^2+x^2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ -\frac{\sin \phi}{R} & \frac{\cos \phi}{R} \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

as a function of the primed coordinates.

To find the components of the tangent vector to the curve:

Circle equation: $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$

Parametric form: $\begin{cases} x = t \\ y = \pm \sqrt{a^2 - t^2} \end{cases}$

thus $x^1 = x$ and $x^2 = y$ we represent the curve as $x^a(t)$. So, the tangent vector,

$$\frac{dx^a}{dt} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx^1}{dt} \\ \frac{dx^2}{dt} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mp \frac{t}{\sqrt{a^2 - t^2}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{x}{y} \end{pmatrix}$$

Using $X'^a = (\partial x'^a / \partial x^b) X^b$:

$$X'^a = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x}{\sqrt{y^2+x^2}} & \frac{y}{\sqrt{y^2+x^2}} \\ -\frac{y}{y^2+x^2} & \frac{x}{y^2+x^2} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{x}{y} \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x}{\sqrt{y^2+x^2}} - \frac{x}{\sqrt{y^2+x^2}} \\ -\frac{y}{y^2+x^2} - \frac{x^2}{y(y^2+x^2)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{y^2}{y(y^2+x^2)} - \frac{x^2}{y(y^2+x^2)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{1}{y} \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{1}{a \sin \phi} \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

that are the components of the tangent vector in primed coordinate system.