

Proofs and solutions for Elementary Differential
Geometry 2nd Ed. by Barrett O'Neil

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§0.1 Introduction

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Chapter 1

Calculus on Euclidean Space

§1.1 Euclidean Space

§1.2 Tangent Vectors

§1.3 Directional Derivatives

§1.4 Curves in \mathbb{R}^3

§1.5 1-Forms

§1.6 Differential Forms

Problem 1. Let $\phi = y \, dx + dz$, $\psi = \sin z \, dx + \cos z \, dy$, $\xi = dy + z \, dz$. Find the standard expressions (in terms of $dx \, dy, \dots$) for

(a) $\phi \wedge \psi$, $\psi \wedge \xi$, $\xi \wedge \phi$. (b) $d\phi$, $d\psi$, $d\xi$.

Solution: (a) Applying the definition

$$\phi \wedge \psi = \sin z \, dz \, dx + y \cos z \, dx \, dy + \cos z \, dz \, dy \quad (1.1)$$

$$\psi \wedge \xi = \sin z \, dx \, dy + z \sin z \, dx \, dz + z \cos z \, dy \, dz \quad (1.2)$$

$$\xi \wedge \phi = dy \, dx + yz \, dz \, dx + dy \, dz \quad (1.3)$$

(b) Using definition 6.3,

$$d\phi = dy \, dx \quad (1.4)$$

$$d\psi = \cos z \, dz \, dx - \sin z \, dz \, dy \quad (1.5)$$

$$d\xi = 0 \quad (1.6)$$

□

Problem 2. Let $\phi = dx/y$ and $\psi = z \, dy$. Check the Leibnizian formula (3) of Theorem 6.4 in this case by computing each term separately.

Solution: We have $d(\phi \wedge \psi) = d\phi \wedge \psi - \phi \psi$. The first term is

$$d(\phi \wedge \psi) = d(z/y \, dx \, dy) \quad (1.7)$$

$$= 1/y \, dx \, dy \, dz. \quad (1.8)$$

The second term is

$$d\phi \wedge \psi = 0 \quad (1.9)$$

The third term is

$$\phi \psi = 1/y \, dx \, dz \, dy \quad (1.10)$$

$$= -1/y \, dx \, dy \, dz. \quad (1.11)$$

□

Problem 3. For any function f show that $d(df) = 0$. Deduce that $d(f \, dg) = df \wedge dg$.

Solution: Using $df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} dx_i$,

$$d(df) = d\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} dx_i\right) \quad (1.12)$$

$$= d\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right) dx_i \quad (1.13)$$

$$= \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} dx_j dx_i \quad (1.14)$$

$$= 0 \quad (1.15)$$

by antisymmetry (alternation). Point is the partial derivative is symmetric in i and j but the wedge product is antisymmetric in those indices so the whole term is zero. Combining this result with $d(f\phi) = df \wedge \phi + f d\phi$, we see that the second term is zero so that $d(f \, dg) = df \wedge dg$. □

Problem 4. Simplify the following forms

$$(a) \, d(f \, dg + g \, df) \quad (b) \, d((f - g)(df + dg))$$

$$(c) \, d(f \, dg \wedge g \, df) \quad (d) \, d(gf \, df) + d(f \, dg)$$

Solution: (a)

$$d(f dg + g df) = df \wedge dg + dg \wedge df \quad (1.16)$$

$$= 0 \quad (1.17)$$

by the alternation rule.

(b)

$$d((f - g)(df + dg)) = d(f - g) \wedge (df + dg) \quad (1.18)$$

$$= df \wedge dg - dg \wedge df \quad (1.19)$$

$$= 2 df \wedge dg \quad (1.20)$$

(c)

$$d(f dg \wedge g df) = d(f dg) \wedge (g df) - (f dg) \wedge d(g df) \quad (1.21)$$

$$= df \wedge dg \wedge (g df) - (f dg) \wedge dg \wedge df \quad (1.22)$$

$$= d(fg) \wedge df dg \quad (1.23)$$

(d)

$$d(gf df) + d(f dg) = d(gf) \wedge df + df \wedge dg \quad (1.24)$$

$$= (g df + f dg) \wedge df + df \wedge dg \quad (1.25)$$

$$= (f - 1) dg \wedge df \quad (1.26)$$

□

Problem 5. For any three 1-forms $\phi_i = \sum_j f_{ij} dx_j$ ($1 \leq i \leq 3$), prove

$$\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2 \wedge \phi_3 = \begin{pmatrix} f_{11} & f_{22} & f_{33} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{pmatrix} dx_1 dx_2 dx_3. \quad (1.27)$$

Solution:

$$\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2 \wedge \phi_3 = \sum_{i,j,k} f_{1i} f_{2j} f_{3k} \epsilon^{ijk} dx_1 dx_2 dx_3 \quad (1.28)$$

$$(1.29)$$

because repeats are zero so we need the antisymmetric product of all of the f_{ij} giving the determinant. □

Problem 6. If r, θ, z are the cylindrical coordinate functions on \mathbf{R}^3 , then $x = r \cos \theta$, $y = r \sin \theta$, $z = z$. Compute the *volume element* $dx \, dy \, dz$ of \mathbf{R}^3 in cylindrical coordinates. (That is, express $dx \, dy \, dz$ in terms of the functions r, θ, z , and their differentials.)

Solution:

$$dx \, dy \, dz = (\cos \theta \, dr - r \sin \theta) (\sin \theta \, dr + r \cos \theta) \, dz \quad (1.30)$$

$$= r(-\sin^2 \theta \, dr + \cos^2 \theta \, dr) \, dz \quad (1.31)$$

$$= r \, dr \, d\theta \, dz \quad (1.32)$$

$$(1.33)$$

by the alternation rule. \square

Problem 7. For a 2-form $\eta = f \, dx \, dy + g \, dx \, dz + h \, dy \, dz$, the *exterior derivative* $d\eta$ is defined to be the 3-form obtained by replacing f, g , and h by their differentials. Prove that for any 1-form ϕ , $d(df) = 0$. Exercises 3 and 7 show that $d^2 = 0$, that is, for any form ξ , $d(d\xi) = 0$. (If ξ is a 2-form, then $d(d\xi) = 0$, since its degree exceeds 3.)

Solution: We have $df = \sum_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \, dx_i$. Then

$$d(df) = \sum_i df_i \wedge dx_i \quad (1.34)$$

$$= \sum_{i,j} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \, dx_i \, dx_j \quad (1.35)$$

but the partial derivative is symmetric in i, j and the differentials are antisymmetric so this product is zero. \square

Problem 8. Prove that all three operations may be expressed by exterior derivatives as follows:

- (a) $df \leftrightarrow \nabla f$.
- (b) If $\phi \leftrightarrow V$, then $d\phi \leftrightarrow \nabla \times V$.
- (c) If $\eta \leftrightarrow V$, then $d\eta = (\nabla \cdot V) \, dx \, dy \, dz$.

Solution: (a) This one works out by definition. Since dx_i is dual to U_i .

(b)

$$d\phi = \sum_i df_i \wedge dx_i \quad (1.36)$$

$$(1.37)$$

(c) Using $\eta = f \, dx \, dy + g \, dx \, dz + h \, dy \, dz$,

$$d\eta = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \, dz \, dx \, dy + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \, dy \, dx \, dz + \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \, dx \, dy \, dz \quad (1.38)$$

$$(1.39)$$

and the equality holds using (2). \square

Problem 9. Let f and g be real-valued functions on \mathbf{R}^2 . Prove that $df \wedge dg = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} dx \, dy$. (1.40)

Solution:

$$df \wedge dg = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \right) \left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} dy \right) \quad (1.41)$$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} dx \quad (1.42)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} dx \, dy \quad (1.43)$$

□

§1.7 Mappings

Problem 1. With $F(u, v) = (u^2 - v^2, 2uv)$, find all points \mathbf{p} such that

- (a) $F(\mathbf{p}) = (0, 0)$ (b) $F(\mathbf{p}) = (8, 6)$
(c) $F(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{p}$.

Solution: (a) $u, v = (0, 0)$
(b) $u, v = (\pm 3, \pm 1)$
(c) $(u, v) = (1, 0)$

□

Problem 2. (a)

Problem 3. With $F(u, v) = (u^2 - v^2, 2uv)$, let $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2)$ be a tangent vector to \mathbf{R}^2 at $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2)$. Apply Definition 7.4 directly to express $F_* (\mathbf{v})$ in terms of the coordinates of \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{p} .

Solution:

$$F_* (\mathbf{v}) = (\mathbf{v}[u^2 - v^2], \mathbf{v}[2uv]) \quad (1.44)$$

$$= (2p_1 v_1 - 2p_2 v_2, 2p_1 v_2 + 2p_2 v_1) \quad (1.45)$$

□

Problem 4. With $F(u, v) = (u^2 - v^2, 2uv)$, find a formula for the Jacobian matrix of F at all points, and deduce that F_{*p} is a linear isomorphism at every point of \mathbf{R}^2 except the origin. *Solution:*

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2u & -2v \\ 2v & 2u \end{vmatrix} \quad (1.46)$$

this matrix has rank 2 so given the conditions below Def. 7.9, the map F_* is one-to-one. So it is a linear isomorphism. □

Problem 5. If $F : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$ is a linear transformation, prove that $F * (\mathbf{v}_p) = F(\mathbf{v})_{F(p)}$.

Solution: I don't understand this notation... □

Problem 6. (a) Give an example to demonstrate that a one-to-one and onto mapping need not be a diffeomorphism. (Hint: Take $m = n = 1$.)

(b) Prove that if a one-to-one and onto mapping $F : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ is regular, then it is a diffeomorphism.

Solution: (a) Any mapping defined by $f(x) = x^\alpha$ for α is odd doesn't have smooth inverse at the origin but is still one-to-one and onto.

(b) If a mapping is one-to-one at every point and onto, then there is a well-defined inverse mapping making it a diffeomorphism. □

Problem 7. Prove that a mapping $F : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$ preserves directional derivatives in this sense: If \mathbf{v}_p is a tangent vector to \mathbf{R}^n and g is a differentiable function on \mathbf{R}^m , then $F * (\mathbf{v}_p)[g] = \mathbf{v}_p[g(F)]$.

Solution:

$$\mathbf{v}_p[g(F)] = d(g(F))[\mathbf{p}] \quad (1.47)$$

$$= dg(dF[\mathbf{p}]) \quad (1.48)$$

$$\equiv F * (\mathbf{v}_p)[g] \quad (1.49)$$

□

Problem 8. In the definition of tangent map (Def. 7.4), the straight line $t \rightarrow \mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{v}$ can be replaced by any curve α with initial velocity \mathbf{v}_p .

Solution: The function $F*$ gives the initial velocity of a curve $\alpha'(0)$. Any curve $\beta(t)$ with $\beta'(0)$ will have the same tangent vector and so won't affect the value of $F*$. □

Problem 9. Let $F : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$ and $G : \mathbf{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^p$ be mappings. Prove:

(a) Their composition $GF : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^p$ is a (differentiable) mapping. (Take $m = p = 2$ for simplicity.)

(b) $(GF)* = G * F*$. (Hint: Use the preceding exercise.) This concise formula is the general chain rule. Unless dimensions are small, it becomes formidable when expressed in terms of Jacobian matrices.

(c) If F is a diffeomorphism, then so is its inverse mapping F^{-1} .

Solution: (a) A mapping is a function with differentiable coordinate functions. Since differentiation is well-defined for composite functions using chain rule, the composite function GF is a mapping.

(b) By definition, $F * (\mathbf{v}) = \beta'(0)$. So,

$$(GF) * (\beta'(0)) = (GF(\beta))'(0) \quad (1.50)$$

$$= G * (F(\beta)'(0)) \quad (1.51)$$

$$= G * F * (\beta'(0)) \quad (1.52)$$

(c) If F is a diffeomorphism, then it has an inverse F^{-1} . The function F^{-1} has an inverse. Its tangent map also has an inverse by the previous exercise that maps only the zero vector to 0 (i.e. $F^{-1}F = I \rightarrow (F^{-1}F)* = I* \rightarrow F^{-1}*F* = I$). \square

Problem 10. Show (in two ways) that the map $F : \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ such that $F(u, v) = (v e^u, 2u)$ is a diffeomorphism:

(a) Prove that it is one-to-one, onto, and regular; (b) Find a formula for its inverse $F^{-1} : \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ and observe that F^{-1} is differentiable. Verify the formula by checking that both FF^{-1} and $F^{-1}F$ are identity maps.

Solution: (a) The map is one-to-one and onto since the coordinate functions are one-to-one and onto. The Jacobian matrix is rank two so the tangent map is one-to-one so the map is regular.

(b) Let $F^{-1} = (u e^{-u} / v, v / (2u))$. Then $FF^{-1} = F^{-1}F = I$. \square

Chapter 2

Frame Fields

§2.1 Euclidean Space

§2.2 Tangent Vectors

§2.3 Directional Derivatives

§2.4 Curves in \mathbb{R}^3

§2.5 1-Forms

§2.6 Differential Forms

Problem 1. Let $\phi = y \, dx + dz$, $\psi = \sin z \, dx + \cos z \, dy$, $\xi = dy + z \, dz$. Find the standard expressions (in terms of $dx \, dy, \dots$) for

(a) $\phi \wedge \psi$, $\psi \wedge \xi$, $\xi \wedge \phi$. (b) $d\phi$, $d\psi$, $d\xi$.

Solution: (a) Applying the definition

$$\phi \wedge \psi = \sin z \, dz \, dx + y \cos z \, dx \, dy + \cos z \, dz \, dy \quad (2.1)$$

$$\psi \wedge \xi = \sin z \, dx \, dy + z \sin z \, dx \, dz + z \cos z \, dy \, dz \quad (2.2)$$

$$\xi \wedge \phi = dy \, dx + yz \, dz \, dx + dy \, dz \quad (2.3)$$

(b) Using definition 6.3,

$$d\phi = dy \, dx \quad (2.4)$$

$$d\psi = \cos z \, dz \, dx - \sin z \, dz \, dy \quad (2.5)$$

$$d\xi = 0 \quad (2.6)$$

□

Problem 2. Let $\phi = dx/y$ and $\psi = z dy$. Check the Leibnizian formula (3) of Theorem 6.4 in this case by computing each term separately.

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$$d(\phi \wedge \psi) = d(z/y dx dy) \quad (2.7)$$

$$= 1/y dx dy dz. \quad (2.8)$$

The second term is

$$d\phi \wedge \psi = 0 \quad (2.9)$$

The third term is

$$\phi \psi = 1/y dx dz dy \quad (2.10)$$

$$= -1/y dx dy dz. \quad (2.11)$$

□

Problem 3. For any function f show that $d(df) = 0$. Deduce that $d(f dg) = df \wedge dg$.

Solution: Using $df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} dx_i$,

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$$= \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} dx_j dx_i \quad (2.14)$$

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by antisymmetry (alternation). Point is the partial derivative is symmetric in i and j but the wedge product is antisymmetric in those indices so the whole term is zero. Combining this result with $d(f\phi) = df \wedge \phi + f d\phi$, we see that the second term is zero so that $d(f dg) = df \wedge dg$. □

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$$(c) d(f dg \wedge g df) \quad (d) d(gf df) + d(f dg)$$

Solution: (a)

$$d(f dg + g df) = df \wedge dg + dg \wedge df \quad (2.16)$$

$$= 0 \quad (2.17)$$

by the alternation rule.

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$$d((f - g)(df + dg)) = d(f - g) \wedge (df + dg) \quad (2.18)$$

$$= df \wedge dg - dg \wedge df \quad (2.19)$$

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$$d(f dg \wedge g df) = d(f dg) \wedge (g df) - (f dg)(g df) \quad (2.21)$$

$$= df \wedge dg \wedge (g df) - (f dg) \wedge dg \wedge df \quad (2.22)$$

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because repeats are zero so we need the antisymmetric product of all of the f_{ij} giving the determinant. □

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Solution:

$$dx dy dz = (\cos \theta dr - r \sin \theta)(\sin \theta dr + r \cos \theta) dz \quad (2.30)$$

$$= r(-\sin^2 \theta dr + \cos^2 \theta dr d\theta) dz \quad (2.31)$$

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by the alternation rule. \square

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Solution: We have $df = \sum_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} dx_i$. Then

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Solution:

$$df \wedge dg = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \right) \left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} dy \right) \quad (2.41)$$

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□

§2.7 Mappings

Problem 1. With $F(u, v) = (u^2 - v^2, 2uv)$, find all points \mathbf{p} such that

- (a) $F(\mathbf{p}) = (0, 0)$ (b) $F(\mathbf{p}) = (8, 6)$
 (c) $F(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{p}$.

Solution: (a) $u, v = (0, 0)$

(b) $u, v = (\pm 3, \pm 1)$

(c) $(u, v) = (1, 0)$

□

Problem 2. (a)

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Solution:

$$F_*(\mathbf{v}) = (\mathbf{v}[u^2 - v^2], \mathbf{v}[2uv]) \quad (2.44)$$

$$= (2p_1v_1 - 2p_2v_2, 2p_1v_2 + 2p_2v_1) \quad (2.45)$$

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this matrix has rank 2 so given the conditions below Def. 7.9, the map F_* is one-to-one. So it is a linear isomorphism. □

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Solution:

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(b) By definition, $F^*(v) = \beta'(0)$. So,

$$(GF)^*(\beta'(0)) = (GF(\beta))'(0) \quad (2.50)$$

$$= G^*(F(\beta)'(0)) \quad (2.51)$$

$$= G^* F^*(\beta'(0)) \quad (2.52)$$

(c) If F is a diffeomorphism, then it has an inverse F^{-1} . The function F^{-1} has an inverse. Its tangent map also has an inverse by the previous exercise that maps only the zero vector to 0 (i.e. $F^{-1}F = I \rightarrow (F^{-1}F)^* = I^* \rightarrow F^{-1} * F^* = I$). □

Problem 10. Show (in two ways) that the map $F : \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ such that $F(u, v) = (v e^u, 2u)$ is a diffeomorphism:

(a) Prove that it is one-to-one, onto, and regular; (b) Find a formula for its inverse $F^{-1} : \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ and observe that F^{-1} is differentiable. Verify the formula by checking that both FF^{-1} and $F^{-1}F$ are identity maps.

Solution: (a) The map is one-to-one and onto since the coordinate functions are one-to-one and onto. The Jacobian matrix is rank two so the tangent map is one-to-one so the map is regular.

(b) Let $F^{-1} = (ue^{-u}/v, v/(2u))$. Then $FF^{-1} = F^{-1}F = I$. \square

§2.8 Dot Product

Problem 1. Let $\mathbf{v} = (1, 2, -1)$ and $\mathbf{w} = (-1, 0, 3)$ be tangent vectors at a point of \mathbf{R}^3 .

- (a) $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$ (b) $\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}$
 (c) $\mathbf{v}/\|\mathbf{v}\|, \mathbf{w}/\|\mathbf{w}\|$ (d) $\|\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}\|$
 (e) the cosine of the angle between \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} .

Solution: (a) $-1 + 0 - 3 = -4$.

(b) $6\mathbf{e}_1 - 2\mathbf{e}_2 + 2\mathbf{e}_3$.

(c) $\mathbf{v}/\|\mathbf{v}\| = \mathbf{v}/\sqrt{6}, \mathbf{w}/\|\mathbf{w}\| = \mathbf{w}/\sqrt{10}$

(d) $2\sqrt{10}$.

(e) $-4/\sqrt{60}$. \square

Problem 2. Prove that Euclidean distance has the properties

- (a) $d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \geq 0$; $d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{q}$,
 (b) $d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = d(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$,
 (c) $d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) + d(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}) \geq d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r})$, for any points $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}$ in \mathbf{R}^3 .

Solution: (a) The norm is the square root of the sum of squares. Squares in \mathbf{R}^3 are positive and taking the positive branch of the square root function, the result is proven. If $d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = 0$, then $(p_1 - q_1)^2 + (p_2 - q_2)^2 + (p_3 - q_3)^2 = 0$ but since all squares are positive, each term must be zero, thus $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{q}$. If $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{q}$, from the definition of the norm $d(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = 0$.

(b) The norm is symmetric under interchange of its arguments since the square of a difference is symmetric under interchange of its arguments.

(c) Squaring both sides gives, on the right $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{p} - 2\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q} - 2\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}$, and on the left $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{p} - 2\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}$. The difference is $2\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{q} - 2(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{q} + 2\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r} = 2(\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{r})) = 2(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{q})$. In the minimal case, the points are on a line. Then using $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{p}$ gives zero. \square