

We have spent a lot of time discussing manifolds. In the last lecture we will briefly talk about topology. How do we distinguish manifolds from each other?

Differential forms can in fact help us answer this question.

Poincaré lemma (§39)

$$\omega \in \Omega^k(M).$$

- closed : $d\omega = 0$

- exact : $\exists \eta \in \Omega^{k-1}(M) : \omega = d\eta$

Clearly exactness \Rightarrow closedness:

$$d\omega = d(d\eta) = 0 \text{ because } d^2 = 0.$$

When is a closed form exact?

The answer turns out to be intimately connected with topology.

Def $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $B \subset \mathbb{R}^m$

$g, h: A \rightarrow B$ smooth.

We say that g and h are homotopic if there's a smooth function

$$H: A \times [0,1] \rightarrow B$$

$$\text{s.t. } H|_{A \times \{0\}} = g, H|_{A \times \{1\}} = h.$$

Remark: We think of the $[0,1]$ -factor as being parametrized by time.

$H = H(x, t)$, and at time $t=0$ & $t=1$ resp. we have the smooth maps g and h , resp.

For each t we have a smooth map

$$H_t: A \rightarrow B$$
$$x \mapsto H(x, t)$$

Thm: $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $B \subset \mathbb{R}^m$

$g, h: A \rightarrow B$ smooth and homotopic.

Then \exists a linear map

$$P: \Omega^{k+1}(B) \rightarrow \Omega^k(A)$$

such that

$$\boxed{dP - Pd = h^* - g^*}$$

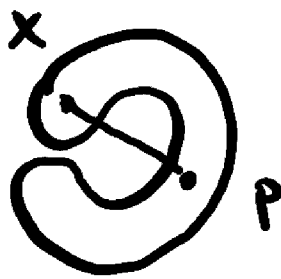
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Omega^k(A) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^{k+1}(A) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^{k+2}(A) \\ & \nwarrow P & \uparrow h^* - g^* & \nearrow P & \\ \Omega^k(B) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^{k+1}(B) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^{k+2}(B) \end{array}$$

This diagram commutes.

Def: An open set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is called star-shaped iff \exists point $p \in A$ such that $\forall x \in A$, the straight line connecting x and p belongs to A .



Star-shaped



not star-shaped

Thm (Poincaré lemma)

Let $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be star-shaped.

If $\omega \in \Omega^k(A)$ is closed, then it is exact.

Proof sketch: If A is star-shaped wrt the point $p \in A$ then we first show that the two maps

$$\text{id}: A \rightarrow A \\ x \mapsto x$$

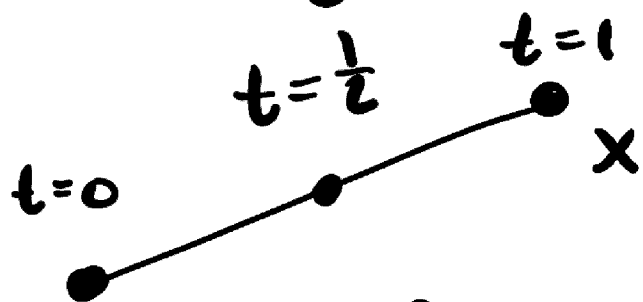
$$c: A \rightarrow A \\ x \mapsto p$$

are homotopic:

$$H: A \times [0, 1] \rightarrow A$$

$$(x, t) \mapsto t \text{id}(x) + (1-t)c(x) \\ = tx + (1-t)p$$

For all t , this lies on the line segment conn. x and p



Therefore if $f \in \Omega^0(A)$
we have

$$\begin{aligned} P(df) &= id^*f - C^*f = f \circ id - f \circ c \\ &= f - f(p) \end{aligned}$$

so if f closed we get

$$0 = f(x) - f(p) \quad \forall x \in A.$$

$\Rightarrow f$ constant on A .

Next if $\omega \in \Omega^k(A)$ ($k > 0$)

$$dP\omega - P d\omega = id^*\omega - C^*\omega \quad (1)$$

$$id^*\omega = \omega$$

$$C^*\omega = C^*\left(\sum_I \omega_I dx_I\right)$$

$$= \sum_I (\omega_I \circ c) dc_I$$

but $dc_I = 0$ because c is the constant function.

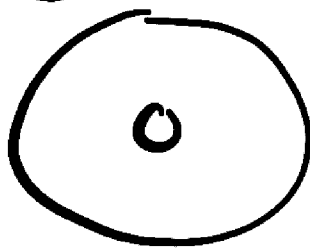
If ω closed we get

$d(P\omega) = \omega$ which precisely means that ω is exact.

□

Runk Poincaré's lemma works in greater generality than star-shaped open sets. In fact it works for any contractible open set. (This means diffeomorphic to a ball!)

It fails eg. for open annuli in \mathbb{R}^2



de Rham Cohomology (840)

We have already seen previously that $d^2=0$. For each $k \geq 0$, $\Omega^k(M)$ is a vector space.

Define

$$\Omega^*(M) := \bigoplus_{k=0}^n \Omega^k(M)$$

This is also a vector space. We say that $\Omega^*(M)$ is a graded vector space. $\Omega^k(M) \subset \Omega^*(M)$ are the "degree" k forms.

[In fact, equipping $\Omega^*(M)$ with wedge product, defines a graded algebra.]

More importantly, equipping the graded vector space $\Omega^*(M)$ w/ the differential d defines

a cochain complex $(\Omega^*(M), d)$

$$\Omega^0(M) \xrightarrow{d_0} \Omega^1(M) \xrightarrow{d_1} \Omega^2(M) \\ \xrightarrow{d_2} \dots$$

$$d_{i+1} \circ d_i = 0$$

In more algebraic terms

$d^2 = 0$ is equivalent to

$\text{im } d_i \subset \text{ker } d_{i+1}$ for all i

Def: If $C^* = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} C_i$ is a graded vector space, and

$$d_i: C_i \rightarrow C_{i+1} \quad \forall i$$

linear map s.t. $d_{i+1} \circ d_i = 0$,

the i -th cohomology group
is defined as the vector sp

$$H^i(C, d) := \text{ker } d_i / \text{im } d_{i-1}$$

Def: The i -th de Rham
cohomology group is defined

as

$$H^i(\Omega^*(M), d)$$

$$= H_{dR}^i(M) := \ker d_i / \text{im } d_{i-1}$$

$$= \frac{\{\text{closed } i\text{-forms}\}}{\{\text{exact } i\text{-forms}\}}$$

Ex: If $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is star-shaped
we have by Poincaré lemma
that

- Any closed 0-form is constant (fcn w/ $\frac{df}{dx} = 0$ is const)
- Any closed k -form ($k > 0$) is exact.

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{dR}^0(U) &= \{\text{closed 0-forms}\} \\
&= \{\text{constant functions}\} \\
&\cong \mathbb{R} \text{ as a vector space}
\end{aligned}$$

$$H_{dR}^k(U) = \frac{\{\text{closed } k\text{-forms}\}}{\{\text{exact } k\text{-forms}\}} \cong 0$$

$$\text{Therefore } H_{dR}^*(U) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}, & * = 0 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Recall that if $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $B \subset \mathbb{R}^m$
 $g: A \rightarrow B$ smooth, then

$$g^*: \Omega^k(B) \rightarrow \Omega^k(A)$$

commutes with d : $g^*(d\omega) = dg^*\omega$

This realizes g^* as a "cochain map" $g^*: \Omega^*(B) \rightarrow \Omega^*(A)$. It's a general fact that it can be defined on the de Rham cohomology groups

$$g^*: H_{dR}^*(B) \rightarrow H_{dR}^*(A).$$

Thm: $A \stackrel{\text{open}}{\subset} \mathbb{R}^n$, $B \stackrel{\text{open}}{\subset} \mathbb{R}^m$

$g: A \rightarrow B$, $h: B \rightarrow A$ Smooth
such that $h \circ g$ is homotopic
to id_A . Then

$$H_{\text{DR}}^*(A) \cong H_{\text{DR}}^*(B)$$

Rmk: If g is a diffeomorphism
then $h = g^{-1}$ is already equal to
 id . This leads to:

$$M \stackrel{\text{diffeo}}{\cong} N \implies H_{\text{DR}}^*(M) \cong H_{\text{DR}}^*(N)$$

or equivalently

$$H_{\text{DR}}^*(M) \not\cong H_{\text{DR}}^*(N) \implies M \not\cong N$$

One of the most powerful
computational tools of de Rham
Cohomology is the Mayer-Vietoris

exact sequence.

Def: A sequence

$$0 \rightarrow U \xrightarrow{f} V \xrightarrow{g} W \rightarrow 0$$

of vector spaces is called short exact if f is injective, g is surjective and $\text{im } f = \ker g$.

Lemma: Any short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow (U, d_U) \xrightarrow{f} (V, d_V) \xrightarrow{g} (W, d_W) \rightarrow 0$$

of cochain complexes (f, g should also commute w/ the relevant differentials) induces an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(U) \rightarrow H^0(V) \rightarrow H^0(W) \rightarrow$$

$$\rightarrow H^1(U) \rightarrow H^1(V) \rightarrow H^1(W) \rightarrow$$

$$\rightarrow H^2(U) \rightarrow \dots$$

If $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ w/ $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$
 and $M := A \cup B$, then we have
 inclusions

$$U \cap V \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{i_U} \\ \xrightarrow{i_V} \end{array} U \cup V \xrightarrow{\text{incl.}} M$$

Thm (Mayer-Vietoris) There is a
 short exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^*(M) \xrightarrow{\text{restr.}} \Omega^*(U) \oplus \Omega^*(V) \\ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{f}} \Omega^*(U \cap V) \rightarrow 0$$

where $\mathcal{f}(\omega, \tau) = \tau - \omega$.

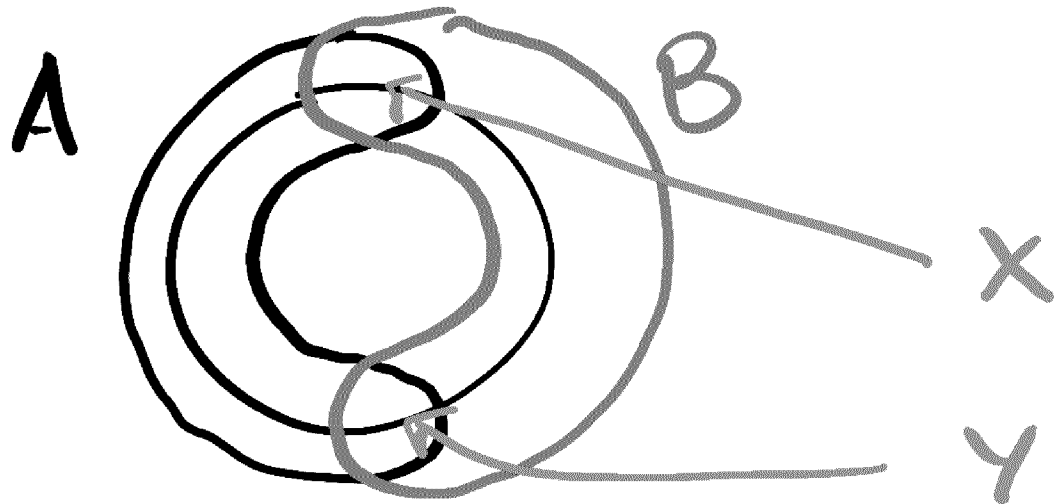
This induces a long exact sequence
 in homology:

$$0 \rightarrow H_{dR}^0(M) \rightarrow H_{dR}^0(U) \oplus H_{dR}^0(V) \rightarrow H_{dR}^0(U \cap V) \\ \rightarrow H_{dR}^1(M) \rightarrow \dots$$

which is a very powerful

Computational tool!

Ex: $M = S^1$ unit circle in \mathbb{R}^2 .



$$U = A \cap M, \quad V = B \cap M$$

Want to compute $H_{dR}^*(S^1)$.

Using the more general Poincaré lemma we know

$$H_{dR}^*(U) = H_{dR}^*(V) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}, & \text{else} \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$H_{dR}^*(U \cap V) = H_{dR}^*(X \cup Y)$$

$$= H_{dR}^*(X) \oplus H_{dR}^*(Y)$$

↑ fact since $X \cap Y = \emptyset$

$$\cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}^2, & * = 0 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Since each X, Y is an open interval.

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\rightarrow H_{dR}^0(S^1) \rightarrow \overbrace{H_{dR}^0(U) \oplus H_{dR}^0(V)}^{\cong \mathbb{R}^2} \\ &\rightarrow \underbrace{H_{dR}^0(X) \oplus H_{dR}^0(Y)}_{\cong \mathbb{R}^2} \rightarrow H_{dR}^1(S^1) \\ &\rightarrow H_{dR}^1(U) \oplus H_{dR}^1(V) \leftarrow \cong 0 \\ &\rightarrow \underbrace{H_{dR}^1(X) \oplus H_{dR}^1(Y)}_{\cong 0} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$0 \rightarrow H_{dR}^0(S^1) \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R}^2 \xrightarrow{g} \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\xrightarrow{h} H_{dR}^1(S^1) \rightarrow 0$$

where f injective, h surjective
 $\text{im } f = \ker g$, $\text{im } g = \ker h$

Now by the rank nullity theorem.

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\text{dR}}^0(S^1) &\cong \ker f \oplus \text{im } f \\ &\cong \text{im } f \cong \ker g \end{aligned}$$

the map g is

$$\begin{aligned} g: H_{\text{dR}}^0(U) \oplus H_{\text{dR}}^0(V) &\rightarrow H_{\text{dR}}^0(X) \oplus H_{\text{dR}}^0(Y) \\ (\omega, \tau) &\mapsto (\tau - \omega, \tau - \omega) \end{aligned}$$

these
are closed,
hence constant
functions

$$\ker g = \{(\omega, \tau) \in H_{\text{dR}}^0(U) \oplus H_{\text{dR}}^0(V) \mid \omega = \tau\}$$

is 1-dimensional

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{H_{\text{dR}}^0(S^1) \cong \mathbb{R}.}$$

Rank-nullity again:

$$\ker g \oplus \text{im } g \cong \mathbb{R}^2 \Rightarrow \text{im } g \cong \mathbb{R}$$

$$\ker h \oplus \operatorname{im} h \cong \operatorname{im} g \oplus H_{\text{dR}}^1(S^1) \\ \cong \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{H_{\text{dR}}^1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{R}}$$

Can show by induction
(and similar techniques as above)

that

$$H_{\text{dR}}^*(S^n) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}, & * = 0, n \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

So for instance

S^n is not diffeomorphic to \mathbb{R}^n !

Can also show

$$H_{\text{dR}}^*(T^2) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}, & * = 0, 2 \\ \mathbb{R}^2, & * = 1 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow T^2 \not\cong S^2$$