

Study on De Rham Cohomology Algebra of Manifolds

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Abstract

In the present paper some aspects of exterior derivative, graded algebra, cohomology algebra, de Rham cohomology algebra, singular homology, cohomology class are studied. Graded subspace, smooth map, a singular p - simplex in a manifold M , oriented n - manifold M , the space of p - cycles and p - boundaries, p^{th} singular homology and homology class are treated in our paper. A theorem 3.03 is established which is related to orientable manifold.

Keywords: De Rham cohomology, cohomology algebra, p^{th} de Rham cohomology space, graded algebras, homology class and orientation class.

I. Introduction

The emergence of differential geometry as a distinct discipline is generally credited to Carl Friedrich Gauss and Bernhard Riemann. Riemann first described manifolds in his famous habilitation lecture before the faculty at Gottingen. He motivated the idea of a manifold by an intuitive process of varying a given object in a new direction. The concept of graded manifolds is developed by Manin. In the de Rham cohomology algebra of a smooth manifold is constructed by means of the calculus of differential forms which in turn is the natural global version of the usual differential calculus in \mathbb{R}^n . In the present paper, we have been discussed Cohomology Algebra, Singular Homology, Cohomology Class with some important theorems, lemmas, corollaries, propositions and examples.

II. Cohomology Algebra

Given an n - manifold of M and we consider the graded algebra [2]

$$A(M) = \sum_{p=0}^n A^p(M)$$

of differential forms on M .

It follows that the exterior derivatives makes $A(M)$ into a graded differential algebra. The co cycles in this differential algebra consist of the differential forms Φ which satisfy the condition $\delta\Phi = 0$. Such a differential form is called closed. Since δ is an antiderivation, the closed forms are a graded subalgebra $Z(M)$ of $A(M)$.

Definition 1.01 Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open subset. Since $A^0(U) = C^\infty(U)$, we defined the exterior derivative by $d : A^0(U) \rightarrow A^1(U)$. For $p \geq 1$, we can define the exterior derivative

$$d : A^p(U) \rightarrow A^{p+1}(U).$$

by the following formula:

$$d \left(\sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_p \leq n} f_{i_1, \dots, i_p} dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_p \leq n} d(f_{i_1, \dots, i_p}) \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p}.$$

It is clear that this operation is \mathbb{R} -linear.

Definition 1.02 The subset $B(M) = \delta A(M)$ is a graded ideal in $Z(M)$. The differential forms in $B(M)$ are called exact or coboundaries. The corresponding cohomology algebra is given by

$$H(M) = Z(M)/B(M).$$

It is called the *de Rham cohomology algebra* [7] of M .

Lemma 1.03 The composition

$$A^p(U) \xrightarrow{d} A^{p+1}(U) \xrightarrow{d} A^{p+2}(U)$$

is trivial ($d^2 = 0$).

Proof. The equation $d^2 = 0$ is equivalent to the equality of mixed partials which in turn, is equivalent to $\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^k}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \right] = 0$, the commutativity of coordinate fields. By the antisymmetry of exterior multiplication, d gives the same answer whether or not the indices are in increasing order or even are distinct. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & d \left(d(f dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p}) \right) \\ &= d \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^j} dx^j \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^k \partial x^j} dx^k \wedge dx^j \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p}, \end{aligned}$$

and this vanishes by the equality of mixed partials and the antisymmetry of exterior multiplication. Hence, the composition is trivial. \square

Corollary 1.04 If $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ are open subsets, and $\varphi : U \rightarrow V$ is smooth, then $d \circ \varphi^* = \varphi^* \circ d : A^p(V) \rightarrow A^{p+1}(U)$, for all $p \geq 0$.

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Proof. Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ are open subsets and $\varphi : U \rightarrow V$ is open. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} & d\left(\varphi^*(f dy^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dy^{i_p})\right) \\ &= d\left(\varphi^*(f)\varphi^*(dy^{i_1}) \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi^*(dy^{i_p})\right) \\ &= d\left(\varphi^*(f)d\left(\varphi^*(y^{i_1})\right) \wedge \dots \wedge d\left(\varphi^*(y^{i_p})\right)\right) \\ &= d\left(\varphi^*(f)\right) \wedge d\left(\varphi^*(y^{i_1})\right) \wedge \dots \wedge d\left(\varphi^*(y^{i_p})\right) \\ &= \varphi^*(df) \wedge \varphi^*(dy^{i_1}) \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi^*(dy^{i_p}) \\ &= \varphi^*(df \wedge dy^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dy^{i_p}) \\ &= \varphi^*(d(f dy^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dy^{i_p})). \end{aligned}$$

Since every $\eta \in A^p(V)$ is a sum of forms of the type used in the above computation, the claim follows. \square

Definition 1.05 For each integer $p \geq 0$, the p th (de Rham) cohomology space of M is the real vector space $H^p(M) = Z^p(M)/B^p(M)$. If $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ is smooth, the formula $\varphi^* \circ d = d \circ \varphi^*$ implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^*(Z^p(N)) &\subseteq Z^p(M) \\ \varphi^*(B^p(N)) &\subseteq B^p(M), \end{aligned}$$

so φ^* induces an \mathbb{R} -linear map $\varphi^* : H^p(N) \rightarrow H^p(M)$.

Lemma 1.06 The graded \mathbb{R} -algebra $Z^*(M)$ is connected if and only if M is a connected manifold [6].

Proof. The space Z^0 consists of all $f \in C^\infty(M)$ such that $df = 0$. That is, $Z^0(M)$ is the space of locally constant, real-valued functions on M . Identifying \mathbb{R} with the space of constant functions in $C^\infty(M)$ we have $\mathbb{R} \subseteq Z^0(M)$. The product in $Z^*(M)$ of a constant function and a form becomes naturally identified with scalar multiplication. But locally constant functions are all constant of and only if M is connected. This completes the proof. \square

Corollary 1.07 The space $H^0(M)$ is one-dimensional if and only if M is connected. In this case, $H^0(M) = \mathbb{R}$ canonically. Generally, $H^0(M)$ is a direct product of copies of \mathbb{R} , one for each component of M .

Proof. The space $Z^0(M)$ consists of all $f \in C^\infty(M)$ such that $df = 0$. That is, $Z^0(M)$ is the space of locally constant, real valued functions on M . Identifying \mathbb{R} with the space of constant functions in $C^\infty(M)$, we have $\mathbb{R} \subseteq Z^0(M)$. Indeed,

$$H^0(M) = Z^0(M)/B^0(M) = Z^0(M),$$

the space of locally constant functions and all the claims follow easily. Hence, the proof is complete. \square

Lemma 1.08 If $\dim M = n$, then $H^p(M) = 0, \forall p > n$.

Proof. Let $\dim M = n$. We have to prove that $H^p(M) = 0, \forall p > n$. Indeed, $A^p(M) = 0$ for all integers p greater than the dimension of M . This means that $H^p(M) = 0, \forall p > n$ where $\dim M = n$. This completes the proof. \square

Definition 1.09 The graded algebra $H^*(M)$ is called the (de Rham) cohomology algebra of M . Whether or not it is connected, $H^*(M)$ has a unity, namely the constant function $1 \in Z^0(M) = H^0(M)$.

Theorem 1.10 The graded cohomology construction defines a contravariant H^* from the category of differentiable manifolds and smooth maps to the category of anticommutative graded algebra over \mathbb{R} and graded algebra homeomorphisms. The graded algebra $H^*(M)$ is connected iff M is connected.

Lemma 1.11 The graded subspace $B^*(M) \subseteq Z^*(M)$ is a 2-sided ideal, hence $H^*(M) = Z^*(M)/B^*(M)$ is a graded, anticommutative algebra over the field \mathbb{R} .

Proof. If $w \in Z^p(M)$ and $\eta \in B^q(M)$, $q \geq 1$, then $\eta = d\alpha$ for some $\alpha \in A^{p-1}(M)$, hence \square

$$\begin{aligned} w \wedge \eta &= w \wedge d\alpha \\ &= dw \wedge (-1)^p \alpha + (-1)^p w \wedge d((-1)^p \alpha) \\ &= d(w \wedge (-1)^p \alpha). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\eta \wedge w = (-1)^{pq} w \wedge \eta$, it follows that $B^*(M)$ is a 2-sided ideal in $Z^*(M)$. \square

Definition 1.12 The (de Rham) cohomology algebra [1] with compact supports is $H_c^*(M) = Z_c^*(M)/B_c^*(M)$. Now, $H^*(M) = H_c^*(M)$ if and only if M is compact.

Definition 1.13 A smooth map $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ is proper, if for each compact set $C \subseteq N$, the set $\varphi^{-1}(C)$ is also compact.

Example 1.14 $id : M \rightarrow M$ is always proper. If M is compact, φ is always proper.

Definition 1.15 The space of compactly supported p -forms on M is denoted by $A_c^p(M)$. Thus each $A_c^p(M)$ is a module over $C^\infty(M)$. The exterior product of two compactly supported forms is compactly supported. \square

Definition 1.16 If $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ is proper and if $w \in A_c^p(N)$, then

$$\varphi^*(w) \in A_c^p(M).$$

As usual $\varphi^* \circ d = d \circ \varphi^*$, so the induced homomorphism of graded algebras [2] is

$$\varphi^* : H_c^*(N) \rightarrow H_c^*(M).$$

III. Singular Homology

A singular p -simplex in a manifold M is a smooth map $s : \Delta_p \rightarrow M$. Thus each point of M can be thought of as a singular 0-simplex and smooth curves, up to parametrization, are singular 1-simplices. Now for $0 \leq i \leq p$, the i th face of the singular $(p-1)$ -simplex $F_i : \Delta_{p-1} \rightarrow \Delta_p$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} & F_i(x^1, \dots, x^{p-1}) \\ &= \begin{cases} (x^1, \dots, x^{i-1}, 0, x^i, \dots, x^{p-1}) & \text{if } i > 0, \\ (1 - x^1 - \dots - x^{p-1}, x^1, \dots, x^{p-1}) & \text{if } i = 0. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

The 0^{th} face of Δ_0 is empty. If $s : \Delta_p \rightarrow M$ is a singular p -simplex, the i^{th} face of s is the singular $(p-1)$ -simplex $\partial_i s = s \circ F_i$.

Definition 2.01 The orientation of M induces an orientation of ∂M . Let $\{U_\alpha, x_\alpha^1, \dots, x_\alpha^n\}_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}}$ be an \mathbb{H}^n -atlas on M respecting the orientation. Let $\mathfrak{A}' = \{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A} \mid U_\alpha \cap \partial M \neq \emptyset\}$ and consider the \mathbb{R}^{n-1} -atlas

$$\{U_\alpha \cap \partial M, x_\alpha^2, \dots, x_\alpha^n\}_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}'}$$

of ∂M . This \mathbb{R}^{n-1} -atlas on ∂M defines an orientation of ∂M .

Theorem 2.02 For each oriented n -manifold M [3], there is unique \mathbb{R} -linear function

$$\int_M : A_c^n(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

called the integral and having the following property:

if (U, φ) is an-orientation respecting coordinate chart, if $W \in A_c^n(M)$ has $supp(w) \subset U$, and if

$$\varphi^{-1*}(w) = g dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n \in A_c^n(\varphi(U)),$$

then $\int_M w = \int_{\varphi(U)} g$ (The Riemann integral).

Proof. First we prove the uniqueness. Let $\{(U_\alpha, \varphi_\alpha)\}_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}}$ be smooth \mathbb{H}^n -atlas on M respecting the orientation. Let $\{\lambda_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}}$ be a smooth partition of unity subordinate to the atlas. If $w \in A_c^n(M)$, then $\lambda_\alpha w \in A_c^n(M)$ and $\lambda_\alpha w \neq 0$ for only a finite number of $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}$. This is because $supp(w)$ is compact and the partition of unity is locally finite. Thus

$$w = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \lambda_\alpha w$$

and this sum is actually finite. Then, if \int_M exists, linearity gives

$$\int_M w = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \int_M \lambda_\alpha w$$

and $supp(\lambda_\alpha w) = supp(\lambda_\alpha) \cap supp(w)$ is a compact subset of U_α . By the local property of \int_M , each $\int_M \lambda_\alpha w$ is uniquely given as

$$\int_M \lambda_\alpha w = \int_{\varphi_\alpha(U_\alpha)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi_\alpha^{-1}) g_\alpha,$$

where $g_\alpha dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n = \varphi_\alpha^{-1*}(w|_{U_\alpha})$.

If $w \in A_c^n(M)$, only finitely many $\lambda_\alpha w$ are not identically 0. Define

$$\int_M \lambda_\alpha w = \int_{\varphi_\alpha(U_\alpha)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi_\alpha^{-1}) g_\alpha,$$

where $g_\alpha dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n = \varphi_\alpha^{-1*}(w|_{U_\alpha})$. Then we define a finite sum

$$\int_M w = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \int_M \lambda_\alpha w,$$

where, $\int_M : A_c^n(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a \mathbb{R} linear map.

We must check that, if $supp(w) \subset U$, where (U, φ) is an arbitrary orientation respecting coordinate chart and if

$$\varphi^{-1*}(w) = g dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n,$$

then $\int_M w = \int_{\varphi(U)} g$.

First we remark that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M w &= \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \int_{\varphi_\alpha(U_\alpha)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi_\alpha^{-1}) g_\alpha \\ &= \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \int_{\varphi_\alpha(U_\alpha \cap U)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi_\alpha^{-1}) g_\alpha, \end{aligned}$$

since $supp(w) \subset U$. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\varphi_\alpha(U_\alpha \cap U)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi_\alpha^{-1}) g_\alpha \\ = \int_{\varphi(U_\alpha \cap U)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi^{-1}) g, \end{aligned}$$

for each $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}$. The fact that the charts are compatibly oriented is essential. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M w &= \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \int_{\varphi(U_\alpha \cap U)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi^{-1}) g \\ &= \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \int_{\varphi(U)} (\lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi^{-1}) g \\ &= \int_{\varphi(U)} \left\{ \sum_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}} \lambda_\alpha \circ \varphi^{-1} \right\} g \\ &= \int_{\varphi(U)} g. \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \int_M w = \int_{\varphi(U)} g. \quad \square$$

Theorem 2.03 Let M be an oriented n -manifold and let $i : \partial M \hookrightarrow M$ be the inclusion. Then if $w \in A_c^{n-1}(M)$,

$$\int_M dw = \int_{\partial M} i^*(w),$$

where if $\partial M = \emptyset$, the right hand side is interpreted as 0.

Theorem 2.04 Let M be an oriented n -manifold with $\partial M = \emptyset$. Then $\int_M : H_c^n(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a well defined \mathbb{R} -linear surjection.

Proof. We know that $A_c^{n+1}(M) = 0$, then we have,

$$Z_c^n(M) = A_c^n(M).$$

If $w = d\eta \in B_c^n(M)$, then Stokes theorem and the fact that $\partial M = \emptyset$ imply that

$$\int_M w = \int_M d\eta = \int_{\partial M} \eta = 0.$$

Thus, the linear map

$$\int_M : Z_c^n(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

induces a well defined linear map

$$\int_M : H_c^n(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

To prove surjectivity, we only need prove that this map is nontrivial. Let (U, x^1, \dots, x^n) be a compatibly oriented

chart and let $\lambda \in C^\infty(M)$ have compact support contained in U , with $\lambda \geq 0$ everywhere and $\lambda > 0$ somewhere. Thus $w = \lambda dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n$ can be interpreted as an element of $Z_c^n(M)$ and of $A_c^n(\mathbb{R}^n)$, so, $\int_M w = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \lambda > 0$.

This completes the required proof. \square

Definition 2.05 If $s : M_p \rightarrow M$ is a singular p -simplex and $w \in A^p(M)$, then $s^*(w)$ has the form $g dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx^p$ and we set

$$\int_s w = \int_{\Delta_p} g,$$

where the right hand side is the Riemann integral [4]. If $s : \{0\} \rightarrow M$ is a singular 0-simplex and $w = f \in A^0(M)$, the integral is interpreted to mean

$$\int_s f = f(s(0)).$$

Definition 2.06 The standard p -simplex $\Delta_p \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ is the convex hull of the set $\{e_0, e_1, \dots, e_p\}$, where e_i is the i^{th} standard basis vector, $1 \leq i \leq p$ and $e_0 = 0$.

Corollary 2.07 A form $w \in A^p(M)$ is closed if and only if $\int_{\partial s} w = 0$, for every singular $(p+1)$ -simplex s in M .

Proof. Let $w \in A^p(M)$. If w is closed, then

$$\int_{\partial s} w = \int_s dw = \int_s 0 = 0.$$

For the converse, suppose that $dw = \eta \neq 0$. Choose a point $x \in M$ such that $\eta_x \neq 0$. Choose vectors $v_1, \dots, v_{p+1} \in T_x(M)$ such that $\eta_x(v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_{p+1}) > 0$. These vectors must be linearly independent, so we find a local coordinate chart (U, x^1, \dots, x^n) about x in which v_i is the value of i^{th} coordinate field $\xi_i = \partial/\partial x^i$ at x , $1 \leq i \leq p+1$. By making this chart sufficiently small, we can guarantee that $\eta(\xi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \xi_{p+1}) > 0$ on all of U . Let $s : \Delta_p \rightarrow U$ be orientation-preserving, smooth imbedding into the coordinate $(p+1)$ -plane $\{(x^1, \dots, x^n) \in U | x^{p+2} = \dots = x^n = 0\}$. It follows that

$$\int_{\partial s} w = \int_s dw = \int_s \eta = 0.$$

This completes the proof. \square

Definition 2.08 The space $Z_p(M) \subseteq C_p(M)$ of all p -cycles is the kernel of the boundary operator $\partial : C_p(M) \rightarrow C_{p-1}(M)$. The space $B_p(M) \subseteq C_p(M)$ of all p -boundaries is the image of the boundary operator $\partial : C_{p+1}(M) \rightarrow C_p(M)$.

Definition 2.09 The p^{th} singular homology of M is the vector space

$$H_p(M) = \frac{Z_p(M)}{B_p(M)}.$$

If $z \in Z_p(M)$, the homology class [5] of z is the coset $[z] \in H_p(M)$ represented by the cycle z .

Theorem 2.10 If M is a contractible n -manifold, then

$$H_p(M) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}, & p = 0 \\ 0, & p > 0 \end{cases}$$

in particular, this is true for $M = \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proposition 2.11 If $w \in Z^p(M)$ and $z \in Z_p(M)$, then the real number $\int_z w$ depends only on the cohomology class $[w] \in H^p(M)$ and the homology class $[z] \in H_p(M)$.

Proof. Indeed, $[w]$ is the set of all closed p -forms $w + d\eta$, where $\eta \in A^{p-1}(M)$. We have

$$\int_z d\eta = \int_{\partial z} \eta = \int_0 \eta = 0,$$

by Stokes theorem and the fact that z is a cycle, so

$$\int_z w + d\eta = \int_z w.$$

Similarly, $[z]$ is the set of all p -cycles of the form $z + \partial c$, where $c \in C_{p+1}(M)$. Since $\int_{\partial c} w = \int_c \partial w = \int_c 0 = 0$, we obtain,

$$\int_{z+\partial c} w = \int_z w + \int_{\partial c} w = \int_z w.$$

This completes the proof. \square

IV. Cohomology Class

Definition 3.01 The unique cohomology class $w_M \in H_c^n(M)$ which satisfies

$$\int_M w_M = 1$$

is called the orientation class for M .

Theorem 3.02 Let M be an oriented n -manifold. Then

$$\int_M : H_c^n(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is a linear isomorphism. Moreover,

$$\ker \int_M = \partial(A_c^{n-1}(M)).$$

Theorem 3.03 $H_c^n(\tilde{M}) = (H_c^n)_-(\tilde{M}); (H_c^n)_+(\tilde{M}) = 0$.

Proof. Since \tilde{M} is connected and orientable [6], $\dim H_c^n(\tilde{M}) = 1$. Since

$$H_c^n(\tilde{M}) = (H_c^n)_+(\tilde{M}) \oplus (H_c^n)_-(\tilde{M}),$$

it is sufficient to prove that $(H_c^n)_-(\tilde{M}) \neq 0$.

Orient \tilde{M} and let $\Omega \in A_c^n(\tilde{M})$ be positive. Since τ reverses orientations,

$$\Phi = \Omega = \tau^* \Omega$$

is again positive. Hence $\int_{\tilde{M}} \Phi > 0$; i.e. Φ represents a nontrivial cohomology class

$\alpha \in H_c^n(\tilde{M})$. But $\tau^* \Phi = -\Omega$; Thus

$\alpha \in (H_c^n)_-(\tilde{M})$ and so $H_c^n(\tilde{M}) \neq 0$.

Hence the Theorem is proved. \square

V. Conclusion

We have focused some important preliminaries and fundamental definitions, examples and theorems which is essential to present this paper. By using de Rham cohomology algebra, grade cohomology construction, space of compactly supported p - forms on manifolds, singular p - simplex of a manifold, oriented n - manifold the theorem 3.03 is established and so on.

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