

Vector interpretations of exterior calculus in \mathbf{R}^3

Vector interpretation of \wedge and d :

[0]: Let f and g be 0-forms (f and g are scalar functions)

[1]: Let $a \cdot dr$ and $b \cdot dr$ be 1-forms (a and b are vector fields and $dr = (dx, dy, dz)$)

[2]: Let $p \cdot ds$ and $q \cdot ds$ be 2-forms (p and q are vector fields and $ds = (dy dz, dz dx, dx dy)$)

$$[1,1]: (a \cdot dr) \wedge (b \cdot dr) = (a \times b) \cdot ds$$

$$[1,2]: (a \cdot dr) \wedge (p \cdot ds) = (a \cdot p) dx dy dz$$

$$[0]: df = (\nabla f) \cdot dr$$

$$[1]: d(a \cdot dr) = (\nabla \times a) \cdot ds$$

$$[2]: d(p \cdot ds) = (\nabla \cdot p) dx dy dz$$

Product rule $d(\omega \wedge \theta) = d\omega \wedge \theta + (-1)^{\deg \omega} \omega \wedge d\theta$:

$$[0,0]: \nabla(fg) = (\nabla f)g + f(\nabla g)$$

$$[0,1]: \nabla \times (fa) = \nabla f \times a + f(\nabla \times a)$$

$$[0,2]: \nabla \cdot (fp) = \nabla f \cdot p + f(\nabla \cdot p)$$

$$[1,1]: \nabla \cdot (a \times b) = (\nabla \times a) \cdot b - a \cdot (\nabla \times b)$$

Vector interpretation of $d^2 = 0$:

$$[0]: \nabla \times (\nabla f) = 0$$

$$[1]: \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times a) = 0$$

Fundamental theorem of calculus $\int_{\Omega} d\omega = \int_{\partial\Omega} \omega$:

$$[0]: \int_{\mathcal{L}} \nabla f \cdot dl = f \text{ evaluated at the endpoints of } \mathcal{L} \quad (\text{Barrow's rule})$$

$$[1]: \int_{\mathcal{D}} \nabla \times a \cdot ds = \oint_{\partial\mathcal{D}} a \cdot dl \quad (\text{Stokes-Kelvin})$$

$$[2]: \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot p \cdot ds = \int_{\partial\Omega} p \cdot dV \quad (\text{Gauss-Ostrogradski})$$