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Wedge product of forms in synthetic differential geometry


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1. WEDGE PRODUCT.

We suppose the Axiom K-L (Axiom 1 in [1]) and we refer the reader to [5] for the calculations.

There are several ways of introducing the notion of form (differential form) in the synthetic context (see [1]). The closest with the classical one is:

(1.1) A quasi-classical $p$-form $\omega^-$ on $M$ is a law which to any $p$-tuple $(t_1, \ldots, t_p)$ of tangents to $M$ (at the same point) associates an element $\omega^-(t_1, \ldots, t_p) \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

(i) $\omega^-(t_1, \ldots, \lambda t_i, \ldots, t_p) = \lambda \omega^-(t_1, \ldots, t_p), \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p,$

(ii) $\omega^-(t_{\pi(1)}, \ldots, t_{\pi(p)}) = \text{sign} (\pi) \omega^-(t_1, \ldots, t_p), \quad \pi \in S_p.$

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It is obvious to give the wedge product of a quasi-classical $p$-form $\omega^\circ$ and a quasi-classical $q$-form $\theta^\circ$ by direct translation of the classical notion, that is $(n = p+q)$

\[(1.2) \quad \omega^\circ \land \theta^\circ (t_1, \ldots, t_n) = (1/p!q!) \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \omega^\circ (t_{\sigma(1)}, \ldots, t_{\sigma(p)}) \theta^\circ (t_{\sigma(p+1)}, \ldots, t_{\sigma(n)}).
\]

It seems that it is not possible to define a quasi-classical $(p+1)$-form $d\omega^\circ$ which corresponds to concept of exterior differential except when we can use coordinates on $\mathcal{M}$. For this we consider a wider notion of form given in [2] (also [1]).

**DEFINITION 1.** A $p$-form on $\mathcal{M}$ is a map $\omega: \mathcal{M}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which is

(i) homogeneous:

$$\omega(\lambda \cdot \tau) = \lambda \omega(\tau),$$

where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, $i = 1, \ldots, p$ and $\lambda \cdot \tau (d_1, \ldots, d_p) = \tau (d_1, \ldots, \lambda d_i, \ldots, d_p)$;

(ii) alternating:

$$\omega(\pi \cdot D^\circ) = \text{sgn}(\pi) \omega(\tau),$$

where $\pi \in S_p$ and $D^\circ (d_1, \ldots, d_p) = (d_{\pi(1)}, \ldots, d_{\pi(p)})$.

We will write $A^p(\mathcal{M})$ for the $\mathbb{R}$-module of $p$-forms on $\mathcal{M}$. The differential exterior operator $d: A^p(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow A^{p+1}(\mathcal{M})$ is built making true the "Infinitesimal Stokes Theorem" (see [1]). But, for this kind of forms the wedge product is not obvious, we attempt to give a definition.

By restricting $\tau: \mathcal{D}^p \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ to the $p$ "axes" through $\bar{Q} \in \mathcal{D}^p$ we obtain a $p$-tuple of tangent vectors at $\tau(\bar{Q})$. Let $k: \mathcal{M}^p \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^p \times \cdots \times \mathcal{M}^p$ be this map. Each quasi-classical $p$-form defines a $p$-form by composition $\omega = \omega \circ k$. (This correspondence becomes a bijection for a large class of objects $\mathcal{M}$, see [2], [4].)

Now we give a definition of $\omega \theta$ compatible with the above comparison, that is satisfying

$$(\omega^\circ \circ k) \land (\theta^\circ \circ k) = (\omega^\circ \land \theta^\circ) \circ k.$$

**DEFINITION 2.** We will call wedge product of $\omega \in A^p(\mathcal{M})$ and $\theta \in A^q(\mathcal{M})$ to the $(p+q)$-form given by

$$\omega \theta (\tau) = (1/p!q!) \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \omega(\tau \circ D^\circ \circ \alpha^\circ) \theta(\tau \circ D^\circ \circ \alpha^\circ)$$

where $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_p)$ and $\tau = (\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_{p+q})$. 

60
where \( n = p+q \), \( \tau \) is a \( n \)-tangent on \( M \), \( \alpha^*: D^p \to D^p \times D^q \) is \( \alpha^*(\xi) = (\eta, \zeta) \) and \( \alpha^*: D^q \to D^p \times D^q \) is \( \alpha^*(\eta, \zeta) = (\xi, \eta, \zeta) \).

**PROPOSITION 3.** The map \( \wedge: A^p(M) \times A^q(M) \to A^{p+q}(M) \) is bilinear, associative, anticommutative \( (\Theta \wedge \omega = (-1)^{pq} \omega \wedge \Theta) \) and functorial \( f^* (\omega \wedge \Theta) = f^* \omega \wedge f^* \Theta \) for every \( f: M \to N \).

If we put \( M^{(\tau)}: M^{p+q} \to (M^p)^p \), \( M^{(\tau)}(\tau) = \tau \), being

\[
\tau_i(h)(\xi) = \tau(h_i, \ldots, h_{i-1}, h, h_{i+1}, \ldots, h_n),
\]

and \( \gamma: R^n \to R \) is the second projection \( (R^n = R \times R) \), then we obtain an explicit expression of \( d\omega \). Writing \( D_\omega = \gamma \omega \circ M^{(\tau)} \) and by applying Axiom K-L we have that

\[
d\omega = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{i} D_i \omega.
\]

**PROPOSITION 4 (Leibniz's Formula).** For each \( p \)-form \( \omega \) and \( q \)-form \( \Theta \) on \( M \), we have

\[
d(\omega \wedge \Theta) = d\omega \wedge \Theta + (-1)^p \omega \wedge d\Theta.
\]

**PROOF (Sketch).** For any \( \tau: D^{n+1} \to M \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, n+1 \), as \( \gamma \) is a derivation we get to

\[
D_j(\omega \wedge \Theta)(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\text{sign}(\pi)/p!q!) \left( \gamma(\omega(\tau_j(-) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*)) \Theta(\tau_j(Q) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*) + \omega(\tau_j(Q) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*) \gamma(\Theta(\tau_j(-) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*)) \right).
\]

On the other hand

\[
d\omega \wedge \Theta(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (-1)^{n+1}/(p+1)!q! \sum_{i=1}^{n} \text{sign}(\pi) D_i \omega(\tau \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*) \Theta(\tau \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*)
\]

but, if we take into account that

\[
(\tau \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*)(\xi) = \tau_j(\xi), \quad \tau \circ D^* \circ \alpha^* = \tau_j(Q) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*
\]

where \( j = \sigma(i) \) and \( \sigma \) is canonically built from \( \sigma \) (we note that \( \alpha^* \) and \( \alpha^* \) are different in each side), we obtain that

\[
d\omega \wedge \Theta(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (-1)^{p} \sum_{s=1}^{n+1} (\text{sign}(\pi)/p!q!) \gamma(\omega(\tau_j(-) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*)) \Theta(\tau_j(Q) \circ D^* \circ \alpha^*)
\]

Using the anticommutativity of the wedge product we get a similar expression for \( \omega \wedge \Theta(\tau) \).
To make a comparison between the wedge product of forms and the cup product of cubical cochains, we take the following digression in [7], Ch. IV:

An infinitesimal $n$-cube (a $n$-tangent with a point $h \in D^n$) can be regarded as a finite $n$-cube, in fact we have the map $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^n \times D^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ given by

$$\varphi(\tau, h) (x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \tau (h_1 x_1, \ldots, h_n x_n).$$

If we suppose that $M$ has the extension property

$(E)$ "The canonical map $\mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is an epic",

we can prove that for every $n$-form $\omega$ and $(\tau, h) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times D^n$ it is satisfied

$$\int_{\varphi(\tau, h)} \omega = h_1 \ldots h_n \omega(\tau),$$

that is

(1.6) $$\rho(\omega) \circ \varphi(\tau, h) = \prod_{i=1}^n h_i \omega(\tau)$$

where $\rho: A^n(M) \to C^n(M)$ is the integration homomorphism given on the generators $\gamma: I^n \to M$ of $C^n(M)$ by

$$\rho(\omega)(\gamma) = \int_{\gamma} \omega = \int_{I^n} \gamma^*(\omega).$$

On the complex of cubical cochains $C^*(M)$ we have the following cup product (131, Ch. VI, VIII): Let $c \in C^p(M)$, $c' \in C^q(M)$ and $\gamma: I^n \to M$ ($n = p+q$), then it is defined by

(1.7) $$\langle c \cup c' \rangle (\gamma) = \sum_{k \in [n], r = \# k + p} \sigma(\gamma(H)) c(\gamma(A_k)) c'(\gamma(B_k))$$

where $H$ is the complementary set of $K$ in $[n] = \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ and if we put $\phi_k: K \to [p]$ for the unique bijective, order-preserving map, $A_k \gamma: I^p \to M$ and $B_k \gamma: I^q \to M$ are given by:

$$A_k \gamma(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \gamma(y_1, \ldots, y_n) \quad \text{with} \quad y_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \in H \\ x_{\phi_k(i)} & \text{if } i \in K \end{cases}$$

$$B_k \gamma(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \gamma(y_1, \ldots, y_n) \quad \text{with} \quad y_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in K \\ x_{\phi_k(i)} & \text{if } i \in H. \end{cases}$$

**PROPOSITION 5.** Let $M$ have the property (E) $(*)$. Then for each $\omega$ in

$(*)$ See Note at the end of the paper.
**PROOF.** First we note that, with the above notations, taking into account that $w$ and $\theta$ are alternating, we have:

$$\omega \theta (\tau) = \sum_{k \in \{1, \ldots, \omega \theta (A_{\tau}) \} \text{sig}(KH) \omega (A_{\tau}) \theta (A_{\tau}).$$

Then, by (1.6), it is enough to show that for each $\tau: D^n \to M$ and $h \in D^n$ we have

$$\begin{equation}
(\rho (\omega) \cup \rho (\theta)) (\# (\tau, h)) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j \in \{1, \ldots, \omega \theta (A_{\tau}) \} \text{sig}(KH) \omega (A_{\tau}) \theta (A_{\tau}).
\end{equation}$$

We obtain easily that

$$A_n (\tau, h) = \# (A_{\tau}, h) \text{ with } h = (h_i \mid i \in K),$$

and also that

$$B_n (\tau, h) (x_1, \ldots, x_n) = (y_1, \ldots, y_n)$$

with

$$y_i = \begin{cases} h_i & \text{if } i \in K \\ h_i x_i & \text{if } i \in H,
\end{cases}$$

but, applying the Axiom K-L to the map $\rho (\theta) (B_n (\tau, -)) : D^n \to R$ we will have

$$\rho (\theta) (A_n (\tau, h)) = \rho (\theta) (A_{\tau}, h) + \sum_{i} h_i a_i$$

for some $a_i \in R$. Hence

$$\rho (\omega) (A_n (\tau, h)) \rho (\theta) (B_n (\tau, h)) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} h_i \omega (A_{\tau}) \theta (A_{\tau})$$

which, substituted in (1.7), gives us (1.9).

We could go further taking into account that

$$(\rho (\omega) \cup \rho (\theta)) (\# : \mathbb{R}^n \times D^n \to R$$

verifies the conditions in [1], Prop. 14.4.1. Then there exists a unique $n$-form $Q$ such that
Thus $\omega \wedge \theta$ is the unique $n$-form verifying (1.8).

2. THE DE RHAM HOMOMORPHISM.

Moerdijk and Reyes construct in [6] the de Rham cohomology of $\mathcal{M}$, $H^*(\mathcal{M})$, and the complex of singular chains $(S^*\mathcal{M}, \delta)$. Now, we consider the dual complex which we will note $(S^*\mathcal{M}, \delta)$:

$$S^*\mathcal{M} = \text{Hom}(S_n(\mathcal{M}), \mathbb{R}), \quad \delta = -\cdot \delta: S^n(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow S^{n-1}(\mathcal{M})$$

(we will identify an element of $S^n(\mathcal{M})$ with a map $f: \mathcal{M}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $\Delta_n = \{(x_0, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid 0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \text{ and } \Sigma x_i\}$

is the standard $n$-simplex). As usually, we can build the singular cohomology, $H^*\mathcal{M}$, of $\mathcal{M}$.

By integration of a $n$-form $\omega$ on a $n$-simplex $\sigma: \Delta_n \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ through the map

$$\pi: I^n \rightarrow \Delta_n, \quad \pi(t_1, \ldots, t_n) = (1-t_1, t_1(1-t_2), \ldots, t_1 \ldots t_n)$$

we define

$$(2.1) \quad \rho_\pi: A^*\mathcal{M} \rightarrow S^*\mathcal{M}, \quad \rho_\pi(\omega)(\sigma) = \int \omega =: \rho(\omega)(\sigma \pi)$$

which is a morphism of complexes (because of Stokes Theorem) and derives in a homomorphism called "de Rham homomorphism":

$$(2.1) \quad \rho_\pi: H^*\mathcal{M} \rightarrow H^*\mathcal{M}.$$ 

The cup product on $S^\mathcal{M}$ is defined by

$$f \cup g (\sigma) = f(\sigma \alpha^*)g(\sigma \alpha^*)$$

(here $\alpha^*: \Delta_\sigma \rightarrow \Delta_n$ is $\alpha^*(x) = (x,0)$ and $\alpha^*: \Delta_n \rightarrow \Delta_\sigma$ is $\alpha^*(x) = (0,x)$), and induces a product on the de Rham cohomology (because of Leibniz's formula) which we will write:

$$\text{ext}: H^*\mathcal{M} \times H^*\mathcal{M} \rightarrow H^{*+\sigma}(\mathcal{M}).$$
THEOREM 1. The de Rham homomorphism $\rho: H^*(M) \to H^*_s(M)$ is multiplicative, that is, it commutes with ext and cup.

PROOF (Sketch). It is sufficient to get a homotopy $\varphi: \cup \circ \rho \circ \rho \to \rho \circ \text{ext}$, that is a family of $R$-linear maps

$$\varphi_n = \varphi_n(M): (\Theta A)^n(M) \to S^{n-1}(M)$$

natural in $M$ and verifying

$$\delta_{n-2} \varphi_{n-1} + \varphi_n d_{n-1} = \rho_n \circ \text{ext} - \cup \circ \rho_n.$$

We build $\varphi_n$ by induction beginning with $\varphi_1 = 0$. Now, if $\varphi_{n-1}(X)$ exists, let

$$\mu_{n-1}(X): (\Theta A)^{n-1}(X) \to S^{n-1}(X)$$

be given by

$$\mu_{n-1}(X) = -\delta_{n-2} \varphi_{n-1}(X) + \rho_{n-1} \circ \text{ext} - \cup \circ \rho_{n-1},$$

and, for every $\Omega \in (\Theta A)^n(M)$ and $\varphi: \Delta_{n-1} \to M$, we define

$$\varphi_n(M)(\Omega)(\varphi) = [\mu_{n-1}(\Delta_{n-1}) \circ K^{-1}(\Delta_{n-1}) \circ \Theta^*(\varphi)](\Omega)],$$

where

$$K^{-1}(\Delta_{n-1}): (\Theta A)^n(\Delta_{n-1}) \to (\Theta A)^n(\Delta_{n-1})$$

is a homotopy constructed after a contraction of $\Delta_{n-1}$ is fixed and

$$\Theta^*: (\Theta A)^n(M) \to (\Theta A)^n(\Delta_{n-1})$$

is induced from $\varphi$.

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NOTE ADDED IN PROOF.

The referee and the author have subsequently eliminated the need for assuming Property (E) in the formula (1.6) (so in Proposition 5): firstly we reduce the question to the case where \( \omega \) is a \( n \)-form on \( D^n \) and \( \tau \) is the generic tangent idom. In this case (1.6) follows considering the restriction of \( \omega \) to \( D(n+1)^n \) and proving that any function \( g: (D(n+1))^n \to R \) which is homogeneous and alternating (in a certain sense) is a restriction of the \( n \)-form \( k \, dx_1...dx_n \) on \( R^n \) for some unique \( k \in R^n \).

Note that the technique of the generic \( n \)-tangent forces us to abandon property (E), since the object \( M = D^n \) does not satisfy such property.

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