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De Rham Complex

Huda A.Hadi [1], Amera W. Al-funjan[2], AL-Nafie Z.D[3],

University of Babylon, College of Education for pure Science, Iraq

hudahdi@uobabylon.edu.iq[1],amera.alfunjan@uobabylon.edu.iq[2], pure.zahir.dobeas@uobabylon.edu.iq[3]

Abstract: *A thorough explanation of the de Rham complex notion and its essential function in differential geometry is provided in this study. The complex's algebraic and topological characteristics are described in detail, including its duality features, relationship to de Rham cohomology, and nature as an elliptic complex. The fundamental* $d^2 = 0$ *property, de Rham's Theorem, and Poincaré's Theorem are among the related theorems and properties that are discussed, with a thorough mathematical explanation provided for each section.*

Keywords: Differential Operators, Hodge theory, complex manifolds, cohomology

1. Introduction

In differential geometry and the theory of differential complexes, the de Rham complex is among the most basic ideas. As a mathematical framework for investigating the properties of manifolds using differential forms, it is essential to comprehending the connection between differential analysis and topology. One of the most well-known examples of an elliptic complex is this one. This study examines its fundamental characteristics and important findings, as described in this publication.

2. Definition[4]

Suppose that X is a differentiable manifold of dimension n. The complex-valued exterior forms of degree q on X are the bundle of differential forms of degree q, represented by $\Lambda^q T_C^*(X)$. These bundles, which are non-zero only for $0 \leq q \leq n$, combine with the exterior derivative operator d_q to generate the de Rham complex, also known as the cochain differential complex.

2.1 Differential Forms and the Exterior Derivative Operator[4]

Any differential form f of degree q can be locally expressed as follows in each coordinate neighborhood U on X:

$$f_U(x) = \sum\nolimits'_{\#I=q} f_I(x) dx_I$$

where $dx_I = dx^{i1} \wedge \ldots \wedge dx^{iq}$ is a basis for the bundle, and $f_I(x)$are functions of class $C(U)$.

The first-order differential operator $dq \in do_1(\Lambda^q \to \Lambda^{q+1})$is the definition of the exterior derivative operator d_q, which is frequently just written as d. This operator uses the following formula to work locally on the forms f_U:

$$f_U(x) = \sum_{\#I=q}^{\prime} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial f_I(x)}{\partial x_i} dx_i \wedge dx_I$$

The essential property of this operator, is that $d^2 = 0$. This property is the cornerstone for constructing any differential complex

3. The Complex's Algebraic and Geometric Properties

The de Rham complex's mathematical significance is highlighted by a number of properties:

3.1 Elliptic Complex[4]

An **elliptic complex** is the de Rham complex. This is due to the fact that the exterior multiplication by the cotangent vector $z \in T_x^*(X)$constitutes the symbol mapping $\sigma(d_q)(x: z)$ at a point (x, z)in the cotangent bundle $T^*(X)$.

3.2 Invariance in the Face of Differentiable Changes

The exterior derivative's invariance under differentiable coordinate changes. This relationship demonstrates that on every manifold X, local differential operators $(d_q^{(v)})$ can be raised to global differential operators d_q. This characteristic yields the essential identity $d \circ m^* = m^* \circ d$.for any differentiable map $m: X \to Y$.

3.3 Duality

The complex $\Lambda^*$and the complex Λ^{In-*}induced by exterior multiplication are isomorphic if the manifold X is orientable. A natural pairing $\langle \cdot,\cdot \rangle_x: \Lambda^{n-q} \otimes \Lambda^q \to \Lambda^n$provided by the exterior product $f \wedge g$ defines this isomorphism. The dual bundle $(\Lambda^q)'$ can be identified with the bundle Λ^{n-q} if X is oriented.

4. The Exactness of the Complex and de Rham's Theorem

The ability of the de Rham complex to relate the topology of the manifold itself to the cohomology of differential forms is its primary significance in topology.

4.1 The Theorem of de Rham

The de Rham cohomologies of the manifold are the cohomology spaces of the complex $\boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^*)$.A crucial isomorphism is established by X. de Rham's Theorem [4]:

$$\boldsymbol{H}^*(\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^*)) \cong \boldsymbol{H}^{\boldsymbol{q}}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{C}$$

This isomorphism demonstrates a clear connection between the basic topological characteristics of the manifold and the characteristics of differential forms.

4.2 The Homotopy Operator and Poincaré's Theorem

The exactness of the complex is explained by Poincaré's Theorem [3]. The complex $\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^*)$ is exact at degrees more than q if the identity mapping of a manifold X is homotopic to a mapping with its image in a q-dimensional submanifold. A homotopy operator h of degree (-1) described by the formula:

$$\boldsymbol{hf} = \int_{0}^{1} \langle \boldsymbol{dt} \wedge \boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{m}_t^* \boldsymbol{f} \rangle \, \boldsymbol{dt}$$

is used to demonstrate this.
This operator creates a cochain homotopy by satisfying the relation $\boldsymbol{hd} + \boldsymbol{dh} = \boldsymbol{m}_1^* - \boldsymbol{m}_0^*$.

5. Summary and Conclusion

The de Rham complex is more than simply an abstract mathematical idea; it is a fundamental idea that unifies various areas of mathematics by skillfully fusing the ideas of topology and differential analysis. The reviewed volume gives a thorough introduction to this complex, covering everything from its definition to its sophisticated uses in topological analysis, fundamental solutions, and duality. In many areas of mathematical research, the complex is still a crucial tool, illustrating the continued significance of classical differential geometry theories in contemporary research.

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