

By the **tensor product** of V_1, \dots, V_n one means a vectorspace

$$V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n$$

together with a particular n linear map

$$\mu: V_1 \times V_2 \times \dots \times V_n \rightarrow V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n$$

which are jointly characterized as follows:

For each n linear map f of $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ into any vectorspace W there exists a unique linear map g of $V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n$ into W such that $f = g \circ \mu$.

It is customary to write

$$v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n$$

in place of $\mu(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$, whenever $v_j \in V_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$.

The uniqueness (up to a linear isomorphism) of the tensor product follows immediately from the above characterization. To prove its existence one considers the one to one map

$$\phi: V_1 \times V_2 \times \dots \times V_n \rightarrow F,$$

where F is the vectorspace consisting of those real valued functions on $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$ which vanish outside some (varying) finite set, and $\phi(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ is the function with value 1 at (v_1, \dots, v_n) and value 0 elsewhere in $V_1 \times \dots \times V_n$. Letting G be the vectorsubspace of F generated by all elements of the two types

$$\begin{aligned} &\phi(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, x, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n) + \phi(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, y, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n) \\ &\quad - \phi(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, x + y, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\phi(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, c v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n) - c \phi(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n)$$

with $c \in \mathbf{R}$, one defines $V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n = F/G$ and takes μ to be the composition of ϕ and the canonical map of F onto F/G .

The construction of tensor products is natural in the sense that *for any linear maps*

$$f_1: V_1 \rightarrow V'_1, \dots, f_n: V_n \rightarrow V'_n$$

there exists a unique linear map

$$f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n: V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n \rightarrow V'_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V'_n$$

such that

$$(f_1 \otimes \dots \otimes f_n)(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n) = f_1(v_1) \otimes \dots \otimes f_n(v_n)$$

whenever $v_j \in V_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$.

Grassmann algebra

CHAPTER ONE

This chapter presents a systematic account of Grassmann (exterior) algebra, with emphasis on aspects useful for geometric measure theory, and with strict adherence to the principles of naturality. The reader is assumed to be familiar with the category of vector spaces and linear maps, but no knowledge of multilinear algebra (or determinants) is presupposed. The field of scalars will be the field \mathbf{R} of real numbers, except where another field is explicitly specified. Of course much of the theory is applicable more generally, even to modules.

The development of exterior algebra was begun over a century ago by H. Grassmann, and received its most significant impetus from the works of É. Cartan. A sketch of the classical history may be found in [BO, Livre II, Chapitre III]. Among the more recent improvements adopted here is the treatment of the exterior algebra as a Hopf algebra; the diagonal map was introduced in [CC] under the name "analyzing mapping". The concepts of mass and comass originated in [WH 4], the proof of Wirtinger's inequality is taken from [F 20], and the content of 1.4.5 from [F 15].

The two concluding sections of this chapter treat symmetric algebra by methods analogous to those used for exterior algebra in the earlier part. The definition of polynomial function was taken from [GG].

1.1. Tensor products

1.1.1. A function f which maps a cartesian product

$$V_1 \times V_2 \times \dots \times V_n$$

of n vectorspaces V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n into some other vectorspace W is called *n linear* if and only if, for any i and any $v_j \in V_j$ corresponding to all $j \neq i$, the function on V_i carrying x into

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, x, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n)$$

is a linear map of V_i into W .

1.1.2. One frequently uses the following linear isomorphisms:
For each permutation λ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n \simeq V_{\lambda(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes V_{\lambda(n)},$$

where $v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n$ is mapped onto $v_{\lambda(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v_{\lambda(n)}$.

For $m < n$,

$$(V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_m) \otimes (V_{m+1} \otimes \dots \otimes V_n) \simeq V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n,$$

where $(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_m) \otimes (v_{m+1} \otimes \dots \otimes v_n)$ is mapped onto $v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n$.

For each vector space V the scalar multiplication is a bilinear map of $\mathbf{R} \times V$ into V , inducing the isomorphism $\mathbf{R} \otimes V \simeq V$, where $c \otimes x$ is mapped onto cx .

If $V \simeq P \oplus Q$ (direct sum), then

$$V \otimes W \simeq (P \otimes W) \oplus (Q \otimes W).$$

In fact, if $f: V \rightarrow P, \phi: P \rightarrow V, g: V \rightarrow Q, \psi: Q \rightarrow V$ are linear maps for which

$$f \circ \phi = \mathbf{1}_P, \quad g \circ \psi = \mathbf{1}_Q, \quad \phi \circ f + \psi \circ g = \mathbf{1}_V,$$

then $f \otimes \mathbf{1}_W, \phi \otimes \mathbf{1}_W, g \otimes \mathbf{1}_W, \psi \otimes \mathbf{1}_W$ are linear maps for which

$$\begin{aligned} (f \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) \circ (\phi \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) &= \mathbf{1}_{P \otimes W}, & (g \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) \circ (\psi \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) &= \mathbf{1}_{Q \otimes W}, \\ (\phi \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) \circ (f \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) + (\psi \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) \circ (g \otimes \mathbf{1}_W) &= \mathbf{1}_{V \otimes W}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that if B_j is a basis of V_j for each j , then the elements $b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_n$, with $b_j \in B_j$, form a basis of $V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n$. Consequently

$$\dim(V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_n) = \prod_{j=1}^n \dim V_j.$$

1.1.3. As an illustrative example we consider the special case where each V_j is the set of all real valued functions on some set S_j , W is the set of all real valued functions on the cartesian product $S_1 \times \dots \times S_n$, and

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n)(s_1, \dots, s_n) = v_1(s_1) \cdot v_2(s_2) \cdot \dots \cdot v_n(s_n)$$

whenever $v_j \in V_j$ and $s_j \in S_j$ for $j=1, \dots, n$. Here the corresponding linear map g is a monomorphism, as seen by induction with respect to n ; in case $n=2$ one readily verifies that

$$\sum_{k=1}^m v_{1,k} \otimes v_{2,k} \notin \ker g$$

whenever $v_{j,1}, v_{j,2}, \dots, v_{j,m}$ are linearly independent elements of V_j , for $j=1, 2$. We also observe that g is an epimorphism if and only if at least $n-1$ of the n sets S_j are finite.

1.1.4. We will use the natural linear transformation

$$\phi: \text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R}) \otimes W \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V, W);$$

for each linear function $\alpha: V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and each $y \in W$, the linear function $\phi(\alpha \otimes y): V \rightarrow W$ maps $x \in V$ onto $\alpha(x) \cdot y \in W$. Making use of a basis of W , one readily sees that ϕ is always a monomorphism, and that ϕ is an epimorphism unless $\dim V = \infty = \dim W$.

We also recall that, if $n = \dim V < \infty$ and e_1, \dots, e_n form a basis of V , then the **dual basis** of $\text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R})$ consists of the real valued linear functions $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ characterized by the conditions

$$\omega_i(e_j) = 1, \quad \omega_i(e_j) = 0 \text{ for } i \neq j.$$

1.2. Graded algebras

1.2.1. For the purpose of this book a **graded algebra** will be a vector-space A with a specified direct sum decomposition

$$A = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} A_m$$

and a bilinear function (multiplication) $\mu: A \times A \rightarrow A$ such that

$$\mu(A_m \times A_n) \subseteq A_{m+n}$$

whenever m and n are nonnegative integers; we ordinarily use a product notation, like $x \cdot y$, in place of $\mu(x, y)$.

Usually the multiplication will be **associative**, and there will be a linear isomorphism $\mathbf{R} \simeq A_0$ mapping 1 onto a unit element of the ring A . Several, but not all, of the algebras considered will satisfy the **anti-commutative law**:

$$\eta \cdot \xi = (-1)^{mn} \xi \cdot \eta \text{ for } \xi \in A_m, \eta \in A_n.$$

1.2.2. If A and B are graded algebras, then the **graded tensor product**

$$A \otimes B = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{p+q=m} A_p \otimes B_q$$

can be made a graded algebra with either of the following two standard definitions of multiplication:

(1) To obtain the **commutative product** $A \otimes B$, let

$$(a \otimes b) \cdot (c \otimes d) = (a \cdot c) \otimes (b \cdot d)$$

whenever $a \in A, b \in B, c \in A, d \in B$.

(2) To obtain the **anticommutative product** $A \otimes B$, let

$$(a \otimes b) \cdot (c \otimes d) = (-1)^{pr} (a \cdot c) \otimes (b \cdot d)$$

whenever $a \in A_p, b \in B_q, c \in A_r, d \in B_s$.

These two definitions are motivated by the simple fact that the commutative product of two commutative algebras is a commutative algebra, while the anticommutative product of two anticommutative algebras is an anticommutative algebra. (Nevertheless it is sometimes also useful to consider the commutative product of two anticommutative algebras!)

The anticommutative products $A \otimes B$ and $B \otimes A$ are isomorphic; the standard isomorphism maps $a \otimes b$ onto $(-1)^{pq} b \otimes a$, whenever $a \in A_p$ and $b \in B_q$. (The analogous isomorphism of commutative products omits the factor $(-1)^{pq}$.)

For every graded algebra A there is a unique linear map

$$\Phi: A \otimes A \rightarrow A$$

such that $\Phi(x \otimes y) = x \cdot y$ whenever $x, y \in A$. In case A is an associative commutative (anticommutative) algebra, then Φ is a graded algebra homomorphism of the commutative (anticommutative) product $A \otimes A$ into A .

1.2.3. We shall now construct, for each vector space V , a particular graded algebra

$$\otimes_* V = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \otimes_n V,$$

called the **tensor algebra** of V . We let

$$\otimes_0 V = \mathbf{R}, \quad \otimes_1 V = V, \quad \otimes_2 V = V \otimes V, \quad \dots;$$

in general $\otimes_m V$ is the m fold tensor product with all m factors equal to V . We define multiplication in $\otimes_* V$ so that its restriction to $\otimes_m V \times \otimes_n V$ is simply the (bilinear) composition

$$\otimes_m V \times \otimes_n V \rightarrow \otimes_m V \otimes \otimes_n V \simeq \otimes_{m+n} V.$$

One readily verifies the associative law and the fact that the element 1 of $\otimes_0 V$ is a unit element of the ring $\otimes_* V$.

Among all graded associative algebras with a unit, whose direct summand of index 1 is linearly isomorphic to V , the tensor algebra $\otimes_* V$ is characterized (up to isomorphism) by the following universal mapping property:

For every graded associative algebra A with a unit element, each linear map of V into A , can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism of $\otimes_ V$ into A , carrying $\otimes_m V$ into A_m for each m .*

Finally we take note of the naturality of the construction \otimes_* : Each linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$ can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism

$$\otimes_* f: \otimes_* V \rightarrow \otimes_* V'.$$

Moreover f is the direct sum of the linear maps

$$\otimes_m f: \otimes_m V \rightarrow \otimes_m V'.$$

1.3. The exterior algebra of a vector space

1.3.1. In the associative tensor algebra $\otimes_* V$ we consider the two sided ideal $\mathfrak{I}V$ generated by all the elements $x \otimes x$ in $\otimes_2 V$ corresponding to $x \in V$. The quotient algebra

$$\wedge_* V = \otimes_* V / \mathfrak{I}V$$

is called the **exterior algebra** of the vector space V . Clearly $\mathfrak{I}V$ is a homogeneous ideal, in fact

$$\mathfrak{I}V = \bigoplus_{m=2}^{\infty} (\otimes_m V \cap \mathfrak{I}V)$$

and therefore

$$\wedge_* V = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \wedge_m V$$

where

$$\wedge_m V = \otimes_m V / (\otimes_m V \cap \mathfrak{I}V);$$

in particular $\wedge_0 V = \mathbf{R}$ and $\wedge_1 V = V$. The elements of $\wedge_m V$ are called **m -vectors** of V . The multiplication in $\wedge_* V$ is called **exterior multiplication** and denoted by the wedge symbol \wedge . It follows that if $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$, then the canonical homomorphism maps the product $v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_m \in \otimes_m V$ onto the product

$$v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_m \in \wedge_m V.$$

Clearly $\wedge_m V$ is the vector space generated by all such products.

If x and y belong to V , then

$$x \otimes y + y \otimes x = (x + y) \otimes (x + y) - x \otimes x - y \otimes y \in \mathfrak{I}V,$$

hence $y \wedge x = -x \wedge y$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & (v_{p+1} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{p+q}) \wedge (v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_p) \\ &= (-1)^{pq} (v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_p) \wedge (v_{p+1} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{p+q}) \end{aligned}$$

whenever $v_1, \dots, v_{p+q} \in V$, which implies that the **anticommutative law** holds for exterior multiplication.

Among all anticommutative associative algebras with a unit, whose direct summand of index 1 is linearly isomorphic to V , the exterior algebra $\wedge_* V$ is characterized (up to isomorphism) by the following property:

For every anticommutative associative algebra A with a unit element, each linear map of V into A_1 can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism of $\wedge_ V$ into A_1 , carrying $\wedge_m V$ into A_m for each m .*

Such an extension is unique because the algebra $\wedge_* V$ is generated by $V \cup \{1\}$. To prove its existence, we recall that each linear map of V into A_1 can be extended to an algebra homomorphism h of $\otimes_* V$ into A_1 ; since A is anticommutative and \mathbf{R} has characteristic different from 2, $a^2 = 0$ whenever $a \in A_1$, hence $\mathfrak{A}V \subseteq \ker h$, and h is divisible by the canonical homomorphism of $\otimes_* V$ onto $\wedge_* V$.

The construction \wedge_* is natural: Each linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$ can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism

$$\wedge_* f: \wedge_* V \rightarrow \wedge_* V'.$$

Moreover $\wedge_* f$ is the direct sum of the linear maps

$$\wedge_m f: \wedge_m V \rightarrow \wedge_m V'.$$

1.3.2. The function \wedge_* converts direct sums of vectorspaces into anticommutative products of algebras: If $V \simeq P \oplus Q$, then $\wedge_* V \simeq \wedge_* P \otimes \wedge_* Q$.

In fact, if $f: V \rightarrow P$, $\phi: P \rightarrow V$, $g: V \rightarrow Q$, $\psi: Q \rightarrow V$ are linear maps for which

$$f \circ \phi = \mathbf{1}_P, \quad g \circ \psi = \mathbf{1}_Q, \quad \phi \circ f + \psi \circ g = \mathbf{1}_V,$$

then there is a unique unit preserving algebra homomorphism

$$\alpha: \wedge_* V \rightarrow \wedge_* P \otimes \wedge_* Q \text{ (anticommutative product)}$$

such that $\alpha(v) = f(v) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes g(v)$ whenever $v \in V$; moreover the composition β of algebra homomorphisms

$$\wedge_* P \otimes \wedge_* Q \xrightarrow{\wedge_* \phi \otimes \wedge_* \psi} \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V \xrightarrow{\Phi} \wedge_* V$$

(where Φ is induced by the multiplication of $\wedge_* V$) is inverse to α , because $\beta \circ \alpha$ and $\alpha \circ \beta$ induce identity maps on the direct summands of degree 1.

Since $\wedge_* \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R} \oplus \mathbf{R}$, it follows that, if e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots form a basis of V , then the products

$$e_\lambda = e_{\lambda(1)} \wedge e_{\lambda(2)} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{\lambda(m)}$$

corresponding to all increasing m termed sequences λ form a basis of $\wedge_m V$. In case V has finite dimension n , this implies that

$$\dim \wedge_m V = \binom{n}{m} \text{ for } m \leq n, \quad \wedge_m V = \{0\} \text{ for } m > n.$$

In fact $\wedge_m V$ has a basis equipotent with the set

$$\Lambda(n, m)$$

of all increasing maps of $\{1, \dots, m\}$ into $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

1.3.3. The diagonal map of $\wedge_* V$ is the unit preserving algebra homomorphism

$$\psi: \wedge_* V \rightarrow \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V \text{ (anticommutative product)}$$

such that $\psi(v) = v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v$ whenever $v \in V$.

For $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$ we compute the product

$$\psi(v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_m) = \prod_{i=1}^m (v_i \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v_i)$$

using the rules

$$(v_i \otimes 1) \cdot (1 \otimes v_j) = (v_i \otimes v_j) = -(1 \otimes v_j) \cdot (v_i \otimes 1).$$

The result can be conveniently expressed in terms of the notion of **shuffle of type** (p, q) , meaning a permutation of $\{1, 2, \dots, p+q\}$ which is increasing on each of the two sets $\{1, \dots, p\}$ and $\{p+1, \dots, p+q\}$. Letting $\text{Sh}(p, q)$ be the set of all shuffles of type (p, q) , we find that the product equals

$$\sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}(p, m-p)} \text{index}(\sigma) \cdot (v_{\sigma(1)} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{\sigma(p)}) \otimes (v_{\sigma(p+1)} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{\sigma(m)}).$$

The **index** of any permutation σ equals $(-1)^N$, where N is the number of pairs (i, j) such that $i < j$ and $\sigma(i) > \sigma(j)$.

The diagonal map ψ of $\wedge_* V$ is associative, which means that the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \wedge_* V & \\ \psi \swarrow & & \searrow \psi \\ \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V & & \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V \\ \psi \otimes \mathbf{1} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{1} \otimes \psi \\ (\wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V) \otimes \wedge_* V & \simeq & \wedge_* V \otimes (\wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V) \end{array}$$

In fact the two vertical compositions of algebra homomorphisms agree on V , mapping v onto $v \otimes 1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes 1 \otimes v$.

The *diagonal map* Ψ of $\wedge_* V$ is *anticommutative*, which means that $\alpha \circ \Psi = \Psi$, where α is the automorphism of the algebra $\wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V$ which maps $x \otimes y$ onto $(-1)^{p_q} y \otimes x$ whenever $x \in \wedge_p V$ and $y \in \wedge_q V$. This is true because $\alpha \circ \Psi$ and Ψ agree on V .

The *diagonal map* is a *natural transformation*: If f is a linear map of V into a vector space V' , with diagonal map Ψ' , then

$$\Psi' \circ \wedge_* f = (\wedge_* f \otimes \wedge_* f) \circ \Psi.$$

1.3.4. We conclude this section by defining and computing the **determinant** of a linear map $f: V \rightarrow V$, where $\infty > \dim V = n$. Since $\dim \wedge_n V = 1$, there exists a unique real number $\det(f)$ such that

$$(\wedge_n f) \xi = \det(f) \cdot \xi \text{ whenever } \xi \in \wedge_n V.$$

Relative to any choice of base vectors e_1, \dots, e_n of V , the endomorphism f can be described by the matrix a consisting of real coefficients a_{ij} such that

$$f(e_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} e_i \text{ for } j=1, \dots, n.$$

Then we find that

$$(\wedge_n f)(e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n) = f(e_1) \wedge \dots \wedge f(e_n) = \sum_{\lambda} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n a_{i, \lambda(i)} \right) e_{\lambda},$$

where the summation is over the set of all permutations λ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, and since $e_{\lambda} = \text{index}(\lambda) \cdot e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_n$ we obtain

$$\det(f) = \sum_{\lambda} \text{index}(\lambda) \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i, \lambda(i)}.$$

If g is another endomorphism of V , then

$$\wedge_n(g \circ f) = (\wedge_n g) \circ (\wedge_n f), \text{ hence } \det(g \circ f) = \det(g) \cdot \det(f).$$

Again using base vectors e_1, \dots, e_n of V we associate with each permutation λ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ the endomorphism $\phi(\lambda)$ of V which maps e_i onto $e_{\lambda(i)}$. Since ϕ and \det are multiplicative homomorphisms, so is $\text{index} = \det \circ \phi$.

1.4. Alternating forms and duality

1.4.1. An m linear function f which maps the m fold cartesian product V^m of a vector space V into some other vector space W , is called **alternating** if and only if $f(v_1, \dots, v_m) = 0$ whenever $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$ and $v_i = v_j$ for some $i \neq j$. We let

$$\wedge^m(V; W)$$

be the vector space of all m linear alternating functions (forms) mapping V^m into W . If $f \in \wedge^m(V; W)$ and $g: \otimes_m V \rightarrow W$ is the corresponding linear function, then $\mathfrak{A} V \cap \otimes_m V \subset \ker g$, hence there exists a unique linear function $h: \wedge_m V \rightarrow W$ such that

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_m) = h(v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_m) \text{ whenever } v_1, \dots, v_m \in V.$$

Thus associating h with f , we obtain the linear isomorphism

$$\wedge^m(V; W) \simeq \text{Hom}(\wedge_m V; W).$$

Moreover there is an obvious linear isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}(\wedge_m V; W) \simeq \text{Hom}^m(\wedge_* V; W),$$

where the right side means the set of those linear maps of $\wedge_* V$ into W which vanish on $\wedge_n V$ whenever $n \neq m$. The above isomorphisms remain true for $m=0$ with the convention $\wedge^0(V; W) = W$. We define

$$\wedge^*(V; W) = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \wedge^m(V; W).$$

Most frequently we shall deal with the case when $W = \mathbf{R}$; we therefore abbreviate

$$\wedge^m(V; \mathbf{R}) = \wedge^m V, \wedge^*(V; \mathbf{R}) = \wedge^* V.$$

The elements of $\wedge^m V$ are called *m -covectors* of V .

In an extension of the usual notation

$$\langle \xi, h \rangle = h(\xi) \text{ for } \xi \in \wedge_m V, h \in \text{Hom}(\wedge_m V; W),$$

we shall also write $\langle \xi, f \rangle = \langle \xi, h \rangle = \langle \xi, k \rangle$ whenever $f \in \wedge^m(V; W)$ and $k \in \text{Hom}^m(\wedge_* V; W)$ correspond to h under the above isomorphisms.

Each linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$ induces a dual linear map

$$\wedge^*(f; W): \wedge^*(V'; W) \rightarrow \wedge^*(V; W)$$

which is the direct sum of the linear maps

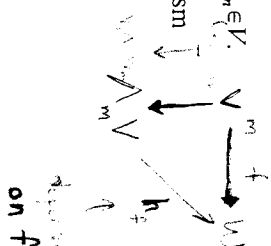
$$\wedge^m(f; W): \wedge^m(V'; W) \rightarrow \wedge^m(V; W)$$

characterized by the equations

$$\langle \xi, \wedge^m(f; W) \phi \rangle = \langle (\wedge_m f) \xi, \phi \rangle$$

for $\xi \in \wedge_m V$ and $\phi \in \wedge^m(V'; W)$.

² Federer, Geometric Measure Theory



We abbreviate $\wedge^*(f, \mathbf{R}) = \wedge^* f$.

For example, in case $V' = V$ with $\infty > \dim V = n$, then

$$(\wedge^n f) \phi = \det(f) \cdot \phi \quad \text{whenever } \phi \in \wedge^n(V, W),$$

because, for each $\xi \in \wedge_n V$,

$$\langle \xi, \wedge^n(f, W) \phi \rangle = \langle (\wedge_n f) \xi, \phi \rangle = \langle \det(f) \cdot \xi, \phi \rangle = \langle \xi, \det(f) \cdot \phi \rangle.$$

1.4.2. Whenever W is an (ungraded) algebra over \mathbf{R} , we shall use the diagonal map \mathcal{Y} of $\wedge_* V$ to turn the graded vector space $\wedge^*(V, W)$ into a graded algebra, called the **alternating algebra of V with coefficients in W** . Recalling that

$$\wedge^*(V, W) \simeq \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \text{Hom}^m(\wedge_* V, W)$$

we define, for $\alpha \in \text{Hom}^p(\wedge_* V, W)$ and $\beta \in \text{Hom}^q(\wedge_* V, W)$, the product $\alpha \wedge \beta \in \text{Hom}^{p+q}(\wedge_* V, W)$ to be the composition

$$\wedge_* V \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Y}} \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V \xrightarrow{\alpha \otimes \beta} W \otimes W \xrightarrow{\vee} W,$$

where $\vee(s \otimes t) = s \cdot t$ for $s, t \in W$. Taking account of the associativity, anticommutativity and naturality of \mathcal{Y} , one easily verifies:

If the multiplication of W is associative, then \wedge is associative.

If the multiplication of W is commutative, then \wedge is anticommutative.

A multiplicative unit element of W acts also as a unit element for \wedge .

For each linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$, the linear map $\wedge^*(f, W)$ is a multiplicative homomorphism.

The alternating product $\alpha \wedge \beta \in \wedge^{p+q}(V, W)$ of $\alpha \in \wedge^p(V, W)$ and $\beta \in \wedge^q(V, W)$ is defined through the isomorphisms $\wedge^m(V, W) \simeq \text{Hom}^m(\wedge_* V, W)$. However, the shuffle formula for $\mathcal{Y}(v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_m)$ leads immediately to the following explicit formula for $\alpha \wedge \beta$:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha \wedge \beta)(v_1, \dots, v_{p+q}) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}(p, q)} \text{index}(\sigma) \cdot \alpha(v_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(p)}) \cdot \beta(v_{\sigma(p+1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(p+q)}) \end{aligned}$$

whenever $v_1, \dots, v_{p+q} \in V$. Assuming the multiplication of W to be associative, one readily obtains by induction a similar formula for the product of m alternating forms

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha_i \in \wedge^{p(i)}(V, W) \\ & s(i) = \sum_{j \leq i} p(j). \end{aligned}$$

corresponding to $i = 1, \dots, m$. Abbreviating

one defines a **shuffle of type $[p(1), \dots, p(m)]$** as a permutation of the set $\{1, \dots, s(m)\}$ which is increasing on each of the m sets $\{s(i-1)+1, \dots, s(i)\}$, and one finds that

$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_m)(v_1, \dots, v_{s(m)}) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}([p(1), \dots, p(m)])} \text{index}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^m \alpha_i(v_{\sigma(s(i-1)+1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(s(i))}) \end{aligned}$$

whenever $v_1, \dots, v_{s(m)} \in V$.

Therefore, in case $p(i) = 1$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$, we have

$$(\alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_m)(v_1, \dots, v_m) = \sum_{\sigma} \text{index}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^m \alpha_i(v_{\sigma(i)}),$$

where the summation extends over all permutations σ of $\{1, \dots, m\}$.

In particular, if $\alpha_i(v_j) = 0$ whenever $j < i$, we obtain $\prod_{i=1}^m \alpha_i(v_i)$.

1.4.3. Next we take $W = \mathbf{R}$ and observe that, if $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are linearly independent in $\wedge^1 V$, and $m \leq n$, then the products

$$\omega_\lambda = \omega_{\lambda(1)} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{\lambda(m)}$$

corresponding to all $\lambda \in \Lambda(n, m)$ are linearly independent in $\wedge^m V$. In fact, choosing $e_j \in V$ so that $\langle e_j, \omega_j \rangle = 1$ and $\langle e_j, \omega_i \rangle = 0$ whenever $i \neq j$, we find that $\langle e_\lambda, \omega_\lambda \rangle = 1$ and $\langle e_\mu, \omega_\lambda \rangle = 0$ whenever $\lambda \neq \mu \in \Lambda(n, m)$. In case $\infty > \dim V = n$, then the products ω_λ form a basis of $\wedge^m V$, because in this case

$$\dim \wedge^m V = \dim \wedge_m V = \binom{n}{m};$$

we also note the equations

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda(n, m)} \langle e_\lambda, \phi \rangle \omega_\lambda \quad \text{for } \phi \in \wedge^m V, \\ \xi &= \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda(n, m)} \langle \xi, \omega_\lambda \rangle e_\lambda \quad \text{for } \xi \in \wedge_m V. \end{aligned}$$

The coefficients $\langle e_\lambda, \phi \rangle$ and $\langle \omega_\lambda, \xi \rangle$ are called **Grassmann coordinates** of ϕ and ξ , and will usually be denoted ϕ_λ and ξ_λ .

1.4.4. The identity $\text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R}) = \wedge^1 V$ leads to a unique unit pre-serving algebra homomorphism

$$\Omega: \wedge_* \text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \wedge^* V$$

such that $\Omega(\alpha) = \alpha$ whenever $\alpha \in \text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R})$. We see that Ω is a *monomorphism*, because for each choice of base elements of $\text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R})$, Ω maps their m -fold exterior products, which form a base of $\wedge_m \text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R})$, onto their alternating products in $\wedge^m V$, which are linearly independent.

Moreover Ω is an epimorphism in case $\infty > \dim V = n$, because then $\wedge_m \text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R})$ and $\wedge^m V$ both have dimension $\binom{n}{m}$. If $\infty = \dim V$, then $\text{im } \Omega$ does not contain $\wedge^m V$ for any $m \geq 2$.

(While the identity $\text{Hom}(V, W) = \wedge^1(V, W)$ allows one to define a similar algebra homomorphism of $\wedge_* \text{Hom}(V, W)$ into $\wedge^*(V, W)$, for any associative algebra W with a unit element, this homomorphism is not injective unless $\dim W = 1$; it is surjective whenever $\dim V < \infty$. On the other hand, in case W is also commutative, one obtains a W linear homomorphism

$$\wedge_*^W \text{Hom}(V, W) \rightarrow \wedge^*(V, W),$$

which is an isomorphism in case $\dim V < \infty$. Here \wedge_*^W means the exterior algebra constructed with W replacing \mathbf{R} as coefficient ring.)

1.4.5. For any two vectorspaces V and W the commutative product $\wedge^* V \otimes \wedge^* W$ is an associative algebra, which is neither commutative nor anticommutative (unless $V \simeq \mathbf{R}$ or $W \simeq \mathbf{R}$). However the subalgebra

$$A = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \wedge^m V \otimes \wedge_m W$$

is commutative.

Assuming $\dim V = n < \infty$ we recall (1.1.4) the natural isomorphism

$$\wedge^1 V \otimes W \simeq \text{Hom}(V, W),$$

whose inverse Γ can be computed as follows: If e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are dual basic sequences of V and $\wedge^1 V$, then to each $f \in \text{Hom}(V, W)$ corresponds

$$\Gamma(f) = \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \otimes f(e_i) \in \wedge^1 V \otimes W.$$

Using the multiplication in A we compute the divided m -th power

$$\Gamma(f)^m / m! = \sum_{\lambda \in A(n, m)} \omega_\lambda \otimes (\wedge_m f) e_\lambda = \Gamma(\wedge_m f),$$

where the symbol Γ on the right designates the inverse of the natural isomorphisms

$$\wedge^m V \otimes \wedge_m W \simeq \wedge^1(\wedge_m V) \otimes \wedge_m W \simeq \text{Hom}(\wedge_m V, \wedge_m W).$$

In case $V = W$ we define $\text{trace} \in \text{Hom}(A, \mathbf{R})$ so that

$$\text{trace}(\phi \otimes \xi) = \langle \xi, \phi \rangle \text{ for } \phi \in \wedge^m V, \xi \in \wedge_m V,$$

and observe that

$$\text{trace}[\zeta \cdot \Gamma(\mathbf{1}_{A, V})] = \binom{n-m}{j} \text{trace}(\zeta)$$

for $\zeta \in \wedge^m V \otimes \wedge_m V$ and $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - m$. Moreover

$$\text{trace}[\Gamma(f)^m / m!] = \text{trace}[\Gamma(\wedge_m f)] = \det(f)$$

for $f \in \text{Hom}(V, V)$. Using the binomial theorem we find that, whenever $t \in \mathbf{R}$,

$$\Gamma(t \mathbf{1}_V - f)^m / m! = [t \Gamma(\mathbf{1}_V) - \Gamma(f)]^m / m! = \sum_{m=0}^m t^{m-m} \Gamma(\mathbf{1}_{A, n-m} V) (-1)^m \Gamma(\wedge_m f),$$

hence the value of the characteristic polynomial of f at t equals

$$\det(t \mathbf{1}_V - f) = \sum_{m=0}^n t^{n-m} (-1)^m \text{trace}[\Gamma(\wedge_m f)].$$

Similarly one obtains the formula

$$\det(\mathbf{1}_V + t f) = \sum_{m=0}^n t^m \text{trace}[\Gamma(\wedge_m f)].$$

Hereafter we abbreviate $\text{trace}[\Gamma(f)] = \text{trace}(f)$.

If $f, g \in \text{Hom}(V, V)$, then

$$\text{trace}(f \circ g) = \text{trace}(g \circ f);$$

in fact this equation is bilinear, and in the special case when $\Gamma(f) = \alpha \otimes v$, $\Gamma(g) = \beta \otimes w$ it holds because

$$\Gamma(f \circ g) - \Gamma(g \circ f) = \alpha(w) \beta \otimes v - \beta(v) \alpha \otimes w.$$

If $f \in \text{Hom}(V, V)$, then $\text{trace}(\wedge^1 f) = \text{trace}(f)$.

1.5. Interior multiplications

1.5.1. These operations are bilinear maps

$$\lrcorner : \wedge_p V \times \wedge^q(V, W) \rightarrow \wedge^{q-p}(V, W)$$

$$\lfloor : \wedge_q V \times \wedge^p V \rightarrow \wedge_{q-p} V$$

defined for $p \leq q$, and characterized by the conditions:

$$\langle \xi, \eta \lrcorner \phi \rangle = \langle \xi \wedge \eta, \phi \rangle \text{ whenever } \xi \in \wedge_{q-p} V, \eta \in \wedge_p V, \phi \in \wedge^q(V, W);$$

$$\langle \zeta \lfloor \alpha, \beta \rangle = \langle \zeta, \alpha \wedge \beta \rangle \text{ whenever } \zeta \in \wedge_q V, \alpha \in \wedge^p V, \beta \in \wedge^{q-p} V.$$

The interior multiplications \lrcorner and \lfloor may be constructed by essentially dual procedures as follows:

Right exterior multiplication by η maps $\wedge_{q-p} V$ into $\wedge_q V$; the induced map

$$\text{Hom}(\wedge_q V, W) \simeq \wedge^q(V, W) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\wedge_{q-p} V, W) \simeq \wedge^{q-p}(V, W)$$

carries ϕ onto $\eta \lrcorner \phi$.

The diagonal map Ψ of $\wedge_* V$ and the map $h \in \text{Hom}^p(\wedge_* V, \mathbf{R})$ corresponding to α lead to the composition

$$\wedge_* V \xrightarrow{\Psi} \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V \xrightarrow{h \otimes 1} \mathbf{R} \otimes \wedge_* V \simeq \wedge_* V$$

which carries ξ onto $\xi \lrcorner \alpha$. Letting $k \in \text{Hom}^{q-p}(\wedge_* V, \mathbf{R})$ correspond to β , we derive the characteristic condition from the commutativity of the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \wedge_* V \otimes \wedge_* V & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & \wedge_* V \\ \downarrow h \otimes 1 & \searrow h \wedge k & \downarrow h \wedge k \\ \mathbf{R} \otimes \mathbf{R} & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & \mathbf{R} \\ \uparrow 1 \otimes k & \uparrow k & \\ \mathbf{R} \otimes \wedge_* V & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & \wedge_* V \end{array}$$

We note that, whenever $r+s \leq t$,

$$\begin{aligned} (\xi \wedge \eta) \lrcorner \phi &= \xi \lrcorner (\eta \lrcorner \phi) \text{ for } \xi \in \wedge_r V, \eta \in \wedge_s V, \phi \in \wedge^t V; \\ \xi \lrcorner (\alpha \wedge \beta) &= (\xi \lrcorner \alpha) \lrcorner \beta \text{ for } \xi \in \wedge_r V, \alpha \in \wedge^s V, \beta \in \wedge^t V. \end{aligned}$$

1.5.2. If $n = \dim V < \infty$, e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are dual bases of V and $\wedge^1 V$, $\lambda \in \wedge(n, p)$ and $\mu \in \wedge(n, q)$, the characteristic conditions immediately yield the following values of the interior products $e_\lambda \lrcorner \omega_\mu$ and $e_\mu \lrcorner \omega_\lambda$:

In case $\text{im } \lambda \not\subset \text{im } \mu$, then

$$e_\lambda \lrcorner \omega_\mu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad e_\mu \lrcorner \omega_\lambda = 0.$$

In case $\text{im } \lambda \subset \text{im } \mu$, then

$$e_\lambda \lrcorner \omega_\mu = (-1)^M \omega_\nu \quad \text{and} \quad e_\mu \lrcorner \omega_\lambda = (-1)^N e_\nu,$$

where $\nu \in \wedge(n, q-p)$, $\text{im } \lambda \cup \text{im } \nu = \text{im } \mu$, and

M = the number of pairs $(i, j) \in \text{im } \lambda \times \text{im } \nu$ with $i < j$,

N = the number of pairs $(i, j) \in \text{im } \lambda \times \text{im } \nu$ with $i > j$.

Note that $M+N = p(q-p)$.

In particular, in case μ is the identity map of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, one finds that right interior multiplication by ω_μ , and left interior multiplication by e_μ , give linear isomorphisms

$$\mathbf{D}_p: \wedge_p V \simeq \wedge^{n-p} V \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{D}^p: \wedge^p V \simeq \wedge_{n-p} V.$$

Moreover \mathbf{D}_p and \mathbf{D}^{n-p} are inverse to each other. Note that these isomorphisms depend only on the dual base vectors e_μ and ω_μ of $\wedge_n V$ and $\wedge^n V$.

The final equations of 1.5.1 imply, whenever $r+s \leq n$, that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}_{r+s}(\xi \wedge \eta) &= \xi \lrcorner \mathbf{D}_s \eta \text{ for } \xi \in \wedge_r V, \eta \in \wedge_s V; \\ \mathbf{D}^{r+s}(\alpha \wedge \beta) &= (\mathbf{D}^r \alpha) \lrcorner \beta \text{ for } \alpha \in \wedge^r V, \beta \in \wedge^s V. \end{aligned}$$

1.5.3. If $v \in V$ and $\alpha \in \wedge^1 V$ with $\langle v, \alpha \rangle = 1$, then

$$\phi = v \lrcorner (\phi \wedge \alpha) + (v \lrcorner \phi) \wedge \alpha$$

whenever $\phi \in \wedge^j V$ with $j \geq 1$. One readily verifies this equation after expressing $\phi = \beta \wedge \alpha + \psi$ with $\beta \in \wedge^{j-1} V$, $\psi \in \wedge^j V$, $v \lrcorner \beta = 0$, $v \lrcorner \psi = 0$. The equation implies that

$$\phi \wedge \alpha = 0 \text{ if and only if } \phi = \beta \wedge \alpha \text{ for some } \beta \in \wedge^{j-1} V,$$

$$v \lrcorner \phi = 0 \text{ if and only if } \phi = v \lrcorner \gamma \text{ for some } \gamma \in \wedge^{j+1} V,$$

and yields the direct sum decomposition

$$\wedge^j V = \{\beta \wedge \alpha: \beta \in \wedge^{j-1} V\} \oplus \{v \lrcorner \gamma: \gamma \in \wedge^{j+1} V\}.$$

We also note the dual equation:

$$\xi = (v \wedge \xi) \lrcorner \alpha + v \wedge (\xi \lrcorner \alpha) \text{ for } \xi \in \wedge_j V.$$

1.6. Simple m -vectors

1.6.1. An element of $\wedge_m V$ is called **simple** (or **decomposable**) if and only if it equals the exterior product of m elements of V . We shall see that there is a close connection between simple m -vectors and m dimensional vector subspaces of V .

With each $\xi \in \wedge_m V$ we associate the vector subspace

$$T = V \cap \{v: \xi \wedge v = 0\}.$$

Assuming $\xi \neq 0$, we claim that $k = \dim T \leq m$ and for any base vectors e_1, \dots, e_k of T there exists a $\xi' \in \wedge_{m-k} V$ such that

$$\xi = e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_k \wedge \xi'.$$

We observe that it suffices to verify this assertion in case $n = \dim V < \infty$, and choose $e_{k+1}, \dots, e_n \in V$ so that e_1, \dots, e_n form a basis of V . Expanding

$$\xi = \sum_{\lambda \in \wedge(m, m)} \xi_\lambda e_\lambda$$

and multiplying by e_i , where $i \leq k$, we find that $\xi_i = 0$ unless $i \in \text{im } \lambda$, because the products $e_i \wedge e_\lambda$ with $i \notin \text{im } \lambda$ are linearly independent.

We deduce the following four corollaries:

A nonzero m -vector ξ is simple if and only if its associated subspace T has dimension m ; in this case ξ equals the exterior product of m suitable base vectors of T .

The associated subspaces of two nonzero simple m -vectors ξ and η are equal if and only if $\xi = c\eta$ with $0 \neq c \in \mathbf{R}$.

If ξ is a nonzero simple m -vector and η is a nonzero simple n -vector, then $\xi \wedge \eta \neq 0$ if and only if the subspace associated with $\xi \wedge \eta$ is the direct sum of the two subspaces associated with ξ and η .

The subspace associated with a nonzero simple m -vector ξ is contained in the subspace associated with a nonzero simple n -vector η if and only if $\eta = \xi \wedge \zeta$ for some $\zeta \in \wedge_{n-m} V$.

1.6.2. The above association maps the set of all nonzero simple m -vectors of V onto the **Grassmann manifold**

$$G(l, m)$$

of all m dimensional subspaces of V . With respect to this map, ξ and η are equivalent if and only if $\xi = c\eta$ for some nonzero real number c .

One also considers the following somewhat finer equivalence relation on the set of all nonzero simple m -vectors of V : ξ and η are equivalent if and only if $\xi = c\eta$ for some positive number c . The equivalence classes now obtained are called **oriented m dimensional subspaces** of V , and the identification space will be denoted

$$G_0(l, m).$$

We shall abbreviate

$$G(\mathbf{R}^n, m) = G(n, m), \quad G_0(\mathbf{R}^n, m) = G_0(n, m).$$

1.6.3. An element of $\wedge^m V$ is called **simple** (or **decomposable**) if and only if it equals the alternating product of m elements of $\wedge^1 V$. In case $n = \dim V < \infty$, the isomorphism (1.4.4)

$$\Omega: \wedge_* \wedge^1 V \cong \wedge^* V$$

shows that simple m -covectors behave just like simple m -vectors; in particular, for $0 \neq \phi \in \wedge^m V$, the associated subspace

$$\wedge^1 V \cap \{\alpha: \phi \wedge \alpha = 0\}$$

has dimension $\leq m$, with equality holding if and only if ϕ is simple. Moreover the isomorphisms \mathbf{D}_p and \mathbf{D}^p defined in 1.5.2 preserve simplicity. If T is the subspace associated with a nonzero simple p -vector ξ ,

then the subspace associated with the simple $n-p$ covector $\mathbf{D}_p(\xi)$ equals

$$\wedge^1 V \cap \{\alpha: \langle \alpha, \xi \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in T\},$$

the annihilator of T . This is obvious because

$$\mathbf{D}_p(e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_p) = (-1)^{p(n-p)} \omega_{p+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_n.$$

Since the annihilator of the intersection of two subspaces equals the vector sum of their annihilators, we obtain the following corollary:

If T and U are the subspaces associated with simple nonzero p - and r -vectors ξ and η , then

$$\dim(T \cap U) = p + r - n \text{ if and only if } \mathbf{D}_p(\xi) \wedge \mathbf{D}_r(\eta) \neq 0;$$

when these conditions hold, then

$$T \cap U \text{ is associated with } \mathbf{D}^{2n-p-r}[\mathbf{D}_p(\xi) \wedge \mathbf{D}_r(\eta)].$$

1.6.4. Regarding the dual pairing of simple m -vectors and simple m -covectors we shall prove:

If $e_1, \dots, e_m \in V$, $\xi = e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_m \neq 0$ and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in \wedge^1 V$, then

$$\langle \xi, \alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_m \rangle = \det(f),$$

where f is the endomorphism of the subspace associated with ξ such that

$$f(e_i) = \sum_{j=1}^m \langle e_i, \alpha_j \rangle e_j \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, m.$$

By the naturality of $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ we may assume that e_1, \dots, e_m form a base of V , and choose $\omega_j \in \wedge^1 V$ so that $\langle e_j, \omega_j \rangle = 1$ and $\langle e_i, \omega_j \rangle = 0$ when $j \neq i$. Then $(\wedge^* f) \omega_j = \alpha_j$, hence

$$\alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_m = (\wedge^* f)(\omega_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_m) = \det(f) \cdot (\omega_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_m),$$

$$\langle \xi, \alpha_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \alpha_m \rangle = \det(f) \cdot \langle \xi, \omega_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_m \rangle = \det(f).$$

1.6.5. Here we recall 1.5.2 and use the linear maps

$$P: V \rightarrow V \times V, \quad Q: V \rightarrow V \times V, \quad g: V \rightarrow V \times V, \quad f: V \times V \rightarrow V,$$

$$P(x) = (x, 0), \quad Q(x) = (0, x), \quad g(x) = (x, x), \quad f(x, y) = x - y \text{ for } x, y \in V.$$

If $\xi \in \wedge_k V$ and $\eta \in \wedge_l V$ with $k+l \geq n$, then

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \langle \xi, \wedge_k P \rangle \wedge \langle \eta, \wedge_l Q \rangle \rangle \wedge \langle \omega_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_n, \wedge^n f \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{(n-k)l} \langle \mathbf{D}^{2n-k-l}(\mathbf{D}_k \xi \wedge \mathbf{D}_l \eta), \wedge_{k+l-n} g \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

We observe that a change of dual bases multiplies both members of this equation by the determinant of the corresponding automorphism of V .

To verify the equation in case ξ and η are simple with $\mathbf{D}_k \xi \wedge \mathbf{D}_l \eta \neq 0$ we choose e_l, \dots, e_n and $\omega_l, \dots, \omega_n$ so that

$$\xi = e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_k, \quad \eta = e_{n-l+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_n,$$

and we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}^{n-k+n-l}(\mathbf{D}_k \xi \wedge \mathbf{D}_l \eta) &= \xi \wedge \mathbf{D}_l \eta \\ &= (e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_k) \wedge \omega_l \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_{n-l} = e_{n-l+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_k. \end{aligned}$$

We also let $a_j = 2^{-1}(e_j, -e_j)$ and $b_j = (e_j, e_j)$, note that

$$P(e_j) \wedge Q(e_j) = a_j \wedge b_j \text{ for } j \in \{1, \dots, n\},$$

and infer that, for all $\phi \in \wedge^{k+l-n}(V \times V)$,

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle P(e_1) \wedge \dots \wedge P(e_k) \wedge Q(e_{n-l+1}) \wedge \dots \wedge Q(e_n), (\omega_1 \circ f) \wedge \dots \wedge (\omega_n \circ f) \wedge \phi \rangle \\ &= \langle P(e_1) \wedge \dots \wedge P(e_{n-l}) \wedge a_{n-l+1} \wedge \dots \wedge a_k \wedge b_{n-l+1} \wedge \dots \wedge b_k \\ &\quad \wedge Q(e_{k+1}) \wedge \dots \wedge Q(e_n), (\omega_1 \circ f) \wedge \dots \wedge (\omega_n \circ f) \wedge \phi \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{(n-k)(k+l-n)+n-k} \langle b_{n-l+1} \wedge \dots \wedge b_k, \phi \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

1.6.6. Assuming that V and W are vectorspaces over the field \mathbf{C} of complex numbers we define

$$\wedge_{\mathbf{C}}^m(V, W)$$

as the subset of $\wedge^m(V, W)$ consisting of those forms ϕ for which

$$\phi(v_1, \dots, v_{j-1}, c v_j, v_{j+1}, \dots, v_m) = c \phi(v_1, \dots, v_m)$$

whenever $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, $c \in \mathbf{C}$ and $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$. We also let

$$\wedge_{\mathbf{C}}^*(V, W) = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \wedge_{\mathbf{C}}^m(V, W).$$

Clearly $\wedge_{\mathbf{C}}^*(V, \mathbf{C})$ is a \mathbf{C} subalgebra of $\wedge^*(V, \mathbf{C})$.

Complex conjugation is an automorphism of $\wedge^*(V, \mathbf{C})$. To each $\alpha \in \wedge^m(V, \mathbf{C})$ correspond $\sigma, \tau \in \wedge^m(V, \mathbf{R})$ such that $\alpha = \sigma + i \tau$, $\bar{\alpha} = \sigma - i \tau$, hence

$$\alpha \wedge \bar{\alpha} = \sigma \wedge \sigma + \tau \wedge \tau \text{ for even } m, \alpha \wedge \bar{\alpha} = -2i \sigma \wedge \tau \text{ for odd } m.$$

If $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ are dual \mathbf{C} bases of V and $\wedge_{\mathbf{C}}^l(V, \mathbf{C})$, and if $\alpha_j = \sigma_j + i \tau_j$ with $\sigma_j, \tau_j \in \wedge^1(V, \mathbf{R})$, then

$$\varepsilon_1, i \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n, i \varepsilon_n \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_1, \tau_1, \dots, \sigma_n, \tau_n$$

are dual \mathbf{R} bases for V and $\wedge^1(V, \mathbf{R})$. Moreover the products

$$\alpha_{\lambda(1)} \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_{\lambda(p)} \wedge \bar{\alpha}_{\mu(1)} \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{\alpha}_{\mu(q)}$$

corresponding to all $\lambda \in \mathcal{A}(n, p)$, $\mu \in \mathcal{A}(n, q)$ with $p+q=m$ form a \mathbf{C} base of $\wedge^m(V, \mathbf{C})$, and those products which correspond to $p=m$, $q=0$ form a \mathbf{C} base of $\wedge_{\mathbf{C}}^m(V, \mathbf{C})$. We also note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 \wedge \tau_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_n \wedge \tau_n &= (i/2)^n \alpha_1 \wedge \bar{\alpha}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n \wedge \bar{\alpha}_n \\ &= (i/2)^n (-1)^{n(n-1)/2} \alpha_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n \wedge \bar{\alpha}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{\alpha}_n. \end{aligned}$$

If f is any \mathbf{C} linear endomorphism of V , then $\det(f) \geq 0$. To prove this we choose bases as above and observe that

$$(\alpha_1 \circ f) \wedge \dots \wedge (\alpha_n \circ f) = d \alpha_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n$$

for some complex number d (the \mathbf{C} determinant of f), hence

$$(\bar{\alpha}_1 \circ f) \wedge \dots \wedge (\bar{\alpha}_n \circ f) = \bar{d} \bar{\alpha}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{\alpha}_n,$$

$$(\wedge^n f)(\sigma_1 \wedge \tau_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_n \wedge \tau_n) = d \bar{d} \sigma_1 \wedge \tau_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma_n \wedge \tau_n$$

and $\det(f) = d \bar{d} = |d|^2 \geq 0$.

A nonzero simple m vector $\xi \in \wedge_m V$ is called **complex** if and only if the \mathbf{R} vectorsubspace of V associated with ξ is a \mathbf{C} vectorsubspace of V . It follows that ξ is complex if and only if m is even, say $m=2p$, and

$$\xi = r v_1 \wedge i v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_p \wedge i v_p$$

for some $r \in \mathbf{R}$ and $v_1, \dots, v_p \in V$. Moreover $\text{sign}(r)$ is uniquely determined by ξ , because for any two \mathbf{C} bases v_1, \dots, v_p and w_1, \dots, w_p of the vector-space associated with ξ there exists a \mathbf{C} linear automorphism g of this vector-space which maps v_j onto w_j , hence

$$w_1 \wedge i w_1 \wedge \dots \wedge w_p \wedge i w_p = \det(g) v_1 \wedge i v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_p \wedge i v_p,$$

with $\det(g) > 0$ according to the preceding paragraph. We term ξ **positive** in case $r > 0$.

1.7. Inner products

1.7.1. We recall that the bilinear functions

$$B: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

are in one to one correspondence with the linear maps

$$\beta: V \rightarrow \wedge^1 V$$

through the connecting formula

$$B(x, y) = \langle x, \beta(y) \rangle \text{ for } x, y \in V.$$

One calls B **symmetric** if and only if $B(x, y) = B(y, x)$ whenever $x, y \in V$; in this case we call the corresponding linear map β a **polarity**.

An **inner product** is a symmetric bilinear function B satisfying the condition

$$B(x, x) > 0 \text{ if and only if } 0 \neq x \in V.$$

When discussing a vector space V with a particular fixed inner product B , we generally use the dot product notation $x \bullet y$ in place of $B(x, y)$, and also define the **norm**

$$|x| = (x \bullet x)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

For example we usually write

$$x \bullet y = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i \text{ for } x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \text{ and } y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbf{R}^n.$$

Assuming henceforth that \bullet is an inner product for V , we use the fact that

$$t^2(x \bullet x) + 2t(x \bullet y) + (y \bullet y) = (tx + y) \bullet (tx + y) \geq 0$$

whenever $t \in \mathbf{R}$ to obtain the inequalities

$$x \bullet y \leq |x| \cdot |y|, \quad \text{hence } |x + y| \leq |x| + |y|$$

for $x, y \in V$; both inequalities are strict in case x and y are linearly independent.

A sequence v_1, \dots, v_p satisfying the conditions $v_i \bullet v_i = 1$, and $v_i \bullet v_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$, is called **orthonormal**. For every linearly independent sequence $u_1, \dots, u_p \in V$ there exists an orthonormal sequence v_1, \dots, v_p such that, for $k = 1, \dots, p$ the sets $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$ and $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ generate the same vector subspace of V . Therefore, in case $\dim V < \infty$, V has an orthonormal base.

We metrize V so that the distance between x and y equals $|x - y|$. It follows that V is boundedly compact if and only if $\dim V < \infty$.

1.7.2. A linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$, where V' is another vector space with an inner product (also denoted by \bullet) is called an **orthogonal injection** if and only if $f(x) \bullet f(y) = x \bullet y$ whenever $x, y \in V$. The set of all orthogonal injections of \mathbf{R}^m into \mathbf{R}^n will be denoted

$$\mathbf{O}(n, m).$$

Moreover $\mathbf{O}(n) = \mathbf{O}(n, n)$ is the orthogonal group of \mathbf{R}^n .

In case $\dim V < \infty$, the polarity corresponding to the inner product of V is a linear isomorphism of V onto $\wedge^1 V$, and one endows $\wedge^1 V$ with the inner product which makes this polarity orthogonal. The resulting norms on V and $\wedge^1 V$ are dual, in the sense that

$$|x| = \sup \{ \langle x, \alpha \rangle : x \in V, |\alpha| \leq 1 \}$$

whenever $\alpha \in \wedge^1 V$. Moreover the polarity maps each orthonormal basis of V onto the dual basis of $\wedge^1 V$.

1.7.3. For each symmetric bilinear function $S: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, with $\dim V < \infty$, there exists an orthonormal base e_1, \dots, e_n of V such that

$$S(e_i, e_i) \geq S(e_j, e_j) \quad \text{and} \quad S(e_i, e_j) = 0 \text{ for } i < j.$$

Proceeding inductively, one may choose e_i in the compact set

$$C_i = \{x: |x| = 1, x \bullet e_k = 0 \text{ whenever } k < i\}$$

so that $S(e_i, e_i) \geq S(x, x)$ for $x \in C_i$; for $i < j$ the fact that

$$|e_i + te_j|^{-1}(e_i + te_j) \in C_i$$

whenever $t \in \mathbf{R}$ implies $S(e_i, e_j) = 0$.

An endomorphism f of V is called

symmetric in case $f(x) \bullet y = x \bullet f(y)$ for $x, y \in V$,

skewsymmetric in case $f(x) \bullet y = -x \bullet f(y)$ for $x, y \in V$.

Every symmetric or skewsymmetric endomorphism f is *orthogonally reducible* in the following sense: If W is a subspace of V , with the *orthogonal complement*

$$W' = V \cap \{x: x \bullet y = 0 \text{ for all } y \in W\},$$

then $f(W) \subset W'$ implies $f(W') \subset W$. In case $\dim V < \infty$ it follows that V is the direct sum of finitely many mutually orthogonal subspaces W which are *minimal* with respect to the property that $f(W) \subset W$.

In case f is *symmetric*, these *minimal subspaces* have dimension 1. One associates with f the symmetric bilinear function S such that $S(x, y) = f(x) \bullet y$ for $x, y \in V$, and obtains an orthonormal base e_1, \dots, e_n of V such that $f(e_i) \bullet e_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$, hence $f(e_i) = \lambda_i e_i$ with $\lambda_i \in \mathbf{R}$.

In case f is *skewsymmetric*, the *minimal subspaces* have dimension ≤ 2 . This is true because $f^2 = f \circ f$ is symmetric, and $f^2(e_i) = \lambda_i e_i$ implies that f maps the subspace generated by e_i and $f(e_i)$ into itself. As a corollary one obtains the following representation of alternating 2-forms:

If $\phi \in \wedge^2 V$, with $\dim V < \infty$, then there exists an *orthonormal sequence* $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_{2m-1}, \omega_{2m} \in \wedge^1 V$ and a *sequence of nonnegative numbers* $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ such that

$$\phi = \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j \omega_{2j-1} \wedge \omega_{2j}.$$

This is trivial if $\dim V \leq 2$. To obtain the general case we consider the skewsymmetric endomorphism f of V such that $f(x) \bullet y = \phi(x, y)$ for

$x, y \in V$, we decompose V into the direct sum of mutually orthogonal subspaces W_1, \dots, W_k with $f(W_j) \subset W_j$ and $\dim W_j \leq 2$, and observe that $\phi(x, y) = 0$ whenever $x \in W_j, y \in W_k, j \neq k$.

If $f: V \rightarrow V$ is a linear map of inner product spaces, with $\dim V < \infty$, then V has an orthonormal base e_1, \dots, e_n such that $f(e_i) \bullet f(e_j) = 0$ for $i \neq j$. In case $\dim V \leq \dim V'$, there exists a symmetric endomorphism g of V and an orthogonal injection $h: V \rightarrow V'$ such that $h \circ g = f$. Choosing e_i adapted to the symmetric bilinear function S such that $S(x, y) = f(x) \bullet f(y)$ for $x, y \in V$, one may define

$$g(e_i) = |f(e_i)| \cdot e_i \text{ for all } i,$$

and choose h so that

$$h(e_i) = |f(e_i)|^{-1} \cdot f(e_i) \text{ whenever } f(e_i) \neq 0,$$

while h maps $\ker f$ orthogonally into the orthogonal complement of $\text{im } f$ in V' . Similarly, in case $\dim V \geq \dim V'$ there exists a symmetric endomorphism k of V' and (see 1.7.4) an orthogonal projection $p: V \rightarrow V'$ such that $k \circ p = f$; this assertion may be proved by applying the preceding proposition to f^* .

1.7.4. Now suppose V and V' are finite dimensional vector spaces with inner products, and with the corresponding polarities β and β' . With each linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$ one associates the **adjoint** linear map $f^*: V' \rightarrow V$ by means of the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{\beta} & \wedge^1 V \\ f^* \downarrow & & \downarrow \wedge^1 f \\ V' & \xrightarrow{\beta'} & \wedge^1 V' \end{array}$$

or equivalently by the condition

$$x \bullet f^*(y) = f(x) \bullet y \text{ for } x \in V, y \in V'.$$

If $g: V' \rightarrow V''$ is also linear, then $(g \circ f)^* = f^* \circ g^*$.

In case $V = V'$, f is symmetric if and only if $f^* = f$; f is skewsymmetric if and only if $f^* = -f$.

Always $f^{**} = f$. The endomorphisms $f^* \circ f, f \circ f^*$ of V, V' are symmetric.

We observe that f is an orthogonal injection if and only if $f^* \circ f = \mathbf{1}_V$. In case f is an orthogonal injection, we call f^* an **orthogonal projection**. Hence a linear map $g: V' \rightarrow V$ is an orthogonal projection if and only if $g \circ g^* = \mathbf{1}_{V'}$. We shall frequently consider the set

$$\mathbf{O}^*(n, m) = \{f^*: f \in \mathbf{O}(n, m)\}$$

of all orthogonal projections of \mathbf{R}^n onto \mathbf{R}^m . In particular, to each $\lambda \in \Lambda(n, m)$ corresponds the map $p_\lambda \in \mathbf{O}^*(n, m)$ such that

$$p_\lambda(x) = (x_{\lambda(1)}, \dots, x_{\lambda(m)}) \text{ for } x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbf{R}^n.$$

If W is any m dimensional vector subspace of \mathbf{R}^n , with the inclusion map $h: W \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$, then $\wedge^m h$ is an epimorphism, hence $(\wedge^m h)\omega_\lambda \neq 0$ for some $\lambda \in \Lambda(n, m)$, where $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ form the standard base of $\wedge^1 \mathbf{R}^n$; since ω_λ generates $\text{im } \wedge^m p_\lambda$, it follows that $\wedge^m(p_\lambda \circ h) \neq 0$, $p_\lambda \circ h$ is an isomorphism, hence

$$W \cap \ker p_\lambda = \{0\}.$$

If $f: V \rightarrow W_1, g: V \rightarrow W_2$ are orthogonal projections and W_3 is an inner product space such that

$$\dim W_1 + \dim W_2 - \dim V \geq \dim W_3,$$

then there exist orthogonal projections $p: W_1 \rightarrow W_3, q: W_2 \rightarrow W_3$ with $p \circ f = q \circ g$. In fact, since $\dim(\text{im } f^* \cap \text{im } g^*) \geq \dim W_3$, there exist orthogonal injections $u: W_3 \rightarrow W_1, v: W_3 \rightarrow W_2$ with $f^* \circ u = g^* \circ v$, and we can take $p = u^*, q = v^*$.

1.7.5. Next we discuss the manner in which *inner products for the spaces $\wedge_m V$ are induced by the given inner product for V* . The polarity $\beta: V \rightarrow \wedge^1 V$ can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism $\gamma: \wedge^* V \rightarrow \wedge^* V$, which is the direct sum of linear maps

$$\gamma_m: \wedge_m V \rightarrow \wedge^m V.$$

Composing γ_m with $\wedge^m V \simeq \wedge^1(\wedge_m V)$, we obtain linear maps

$$\beta_m: \wedge_m V \rightarrow \wedge^1(\wedge_m V)$$

which satisfy the condition

$$\langle \xi, \beta_m(\eta) \rangle = \langle \eta, \beta_m(\xi) \rangle \text{ for } \xi, \eta \in \wedge_m V.$$

It suffices to verify that this holds true if ξ and η are simple, say

$$\xi = v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_m \text{ and } \eta = w_1 \wedge \dots \wedge w_m,$$

in which case the permutation formula for the alternating product of 1-forms (1.4.2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \xi, \beta_m(\eta) \rangle &= \langle v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_m, \beta(w_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \beta(w_m) \rangle \\ &= \sum_{\sigma} \text{index}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^m v_{\sigma(i)} \bullet w_i = \sum_{\sigma} \text{index}(\sigma^{-1}) \prod_{j=1}^m v_j \bullet w_{\sigma^{-1}(j)} \\ &= \langle w_1 \wedge \dots \wedge w_m, \beta(v_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \beta(v_m) \rangle = \langle \eta, \beta_m(\xi) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thus β_m is a polarity, and we define a symmetric bilinear function \bullet on $\wedge_m V \times \wedge_m V$ by the formula

$$\xi \bullet \eta = \langle \xi, \beta_m(\eta) \rangle \text{ for } \xi, \eta \in \wedge_m V.$$

We shall soon see that $\xi \bullet \xi > 0$ in case $\xi \neq 0$, so that \bullet is in fact an inner product for $\wedge_m V$.

The above permutation formula shows that if some w_i is orthogonal to all v_j , then $(v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_m) \bullet (w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge w_m) = 0$.

For any $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$ we can express $v_i = u_i + w_i$, where u_i belongs to the subspace generated by $\{v_k; k < i\}$ and w_i is orthogonal to this subspace; then $v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_m = w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge w_m$ and the permutation formula implies

$$(v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_m) \bullet (v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_m) = \prod_{i=1}^m v_i \bullet w_i \leq \prod_{i=1}^m v_i \bullet v_i,$$

equality holding if and only if v_1, \dots, v_m are mutually orthogonal.

Therefore, if e_1, \dots, e_n form an orthonormal base for V , then the base vectors e_λ of $\wedge_m V$ corresponding to $\lambda \in A(n, m)$, are likewise orthonormal. For any m -vectors ξ and η the representations

$$\xi = \sum_{\lambda \in A(n, m)} \xi_\lambda e_\lambda, \quad \eta = \sum_{\lambda \in A(n, m)} \eta_\lambda e_\lambda$$

and the bilinearity of \bullet lead to the formula

$$\xi \bullet \eta = \sum_{\lambda \in A(n, m)} \xi_\lambda \eta_\lambda.$$

In case $\xi = \eta \neq 0$, we obtain

$$\xi \bullet \xi = \sum_{\lambda} (\xi_\lambda)^2 > 0.$$

One now readily estimates the norm of the exterior product of a p -vector ξ and a q -vector η :

In case ξ or η is simple, then $|\xi \wedge \eta| \leq |\xi| \cdot |\eta|$.

In case both ξ and η are simple and nonzero, equality holds if and only if the subspaces associated with ξ and η are orthogonal.

Always

$$|\xi \wedge \eta| \leq \binom{p+q}{p} |\xi| \cdot |\eta|.$$

To prove the last inequality we represent

$$\xi = \sum_{\lambda \in A(n, p)} \xi_\lambda e_\lambda, \quad \eta = \sum_{\mu \in A(n, q)} \eta_\mu e_\mu$$

with $\xi_\lambda, \eta_\mu \in \mathbf{R}$, we define

$$S(v) = \{(\lambda, \mu); \lambda \in A(n, p), \mu \in A(n, q), e_\lambda \wedge e_\mu = \pm e_v\}$$

whenever $v \in A(n, p+q)$, and observe that

$$\begin{aligned} |\xi \wedge \eta|^2 &\leq \sum_{v \in A(n, p+q)} \left(\sum_{(\lambda, \mu) \in S(v)} |\xi_\lambda \eta_\mu| \right)^2 \\ &\leq \sum_{v \in A(n, p+q)} \text{card } S(v) \sum_{(\lambda, \mu) \in S(v)} (\xi_\lambda \eta_\mu)^2 \\ &\leq \binom{p+q}{p} \sum_{\lambda \in A(n, p)} (\xi_\lambda)^2 \sum_{\mu \in A(n, q)} (\eta_\mu)^2. \end{aligned}$$

The maps β, γ_m, β_m occurring in the preceding construction are related by the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \wedge_m V & \\ \wedge_m \beta \swarrow & & \searrow \beta_m \\ \wedge_m \wedge^1 V & \xrightarrow{\Omega} & \wedge^m V \simeq \wedge^1 \wedge_m V \end{array}$$

In case $\dim V < \infty$, the maps β_m and γ_m are linear isomorphisms, and one endows $\wedge^1 \wedge_m V$ and $\wedge^m V$ with inner product so that β_m and γ_m become orthogonal. If e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are dual orthogonal bases of V and $\wedge^1 V$, then $\gamma_m(e_\lambda) = \omega_\lambda$ for $\lambda \in A(n, m)$. Also

$$|\langle \xi, \phi \rangle| \leq |\xi| \cdot |\phi| \text{ whenever } \xi \in \wedge_m V, \phi \in \wedge^m V;$$

equality holds if and only if $\gamma_m(\xi)$ and ϕ are linearly dependent.

1.7.6. Suppose $f: V \rightarrow V'$ is a linear map, where V and V' are finite dimensional inner product spaces. From the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \wedge_m V & \xrightarrow{\wedge_m f} & \wedge_m \wedge^1 V & \simeq & \wedge^m V \simeq \wedge^1 \wedge_m V \\ \wedge_m f^* \downarrow & & \downarrow \wedge_m \wedge^1 f & & \downarrow \wedge^m f \downarrow \wedge^1 \wedge_m f \\ \wedge_m V' & \xrightarrow{\wedge_m f'} & \wedge_m \wedge^1 V' & \simeq & \wedge^m V' \simeq \wedge^1 \wedge_m V' \end{array}$$

we see that $\wedge_m f^* = (\wedge_m f')^*$.

In case $V = V'$, $\det(f^*) = \det(f)$ and $\text{trace}(f^*) = \text{trace}(f)$. If f is symmetric, so is $\wedge_m f$. If f is skewsymmetric, then $(\wedge_m f)^* = (-1)^m \wedge_m f$. If f is orthogonal, so is $\wedge_m f$, hence $\det(f)^2 = 1$.

In general, if f is an orthogonal injection, so is $\wedge_m f$. If f is an orthogonal projection so is $\wedge_m f$.

The **norm** of f is defined by the formula

$$\|f\| = \sup \{ |f(x)|; x \in V \text{ and } |x| \leq 1 \}.$$

It follows that $\|f\| = \|f^*\| = \|\wedge^1 f\|$ and

$$\|\wedge_m f\| = \|\wedge_m f^*\| = \|\wedge^m f\| \leq \|f\|^m \text{ for all } m.$$

To prove this we choose an orthonormal base e_1, \dots, e_n of V such that $f(e_i) \bullet f(e_j) = 0$ for $i \neq j$; then the m -vectors $(\wedge_m f) e_\lambda$ corresponding to $\lambda \in A(n, m)$ are mutually orthogonal, hence $\xi \in \wedge_m V$ implies

$$|(\wedge_m f) \xi|^2 = \left| \sum_{\lambda} \xi_{\lambda} (\wedge_m f) e_{\lambda} \right|^2 = \sum_{\lambda} (\xi_{\lambda})^2 |(\wedge_m f) e_{\lambda}|^2 \leq |\xi|^2 \|f\|^{2m}.$$

In case $m = \dim V$, then $\|\wedge_m f\| = |(\wedge_m f) \xi|$ for every $\xi \in \wedge_m V$ with $|\xi| = 1$; hence $\|\wedge_m f\| > 0$ if and only if f is a monomorphism.

In case $m = \dim V'$, then $\|\wedge^m f\| = |(\wedge^m f) \phi|$ for every $\phi \in \wedge^m V'$, with $|\phi| = 1$; hence $\|\wedge_m f\| > 0$ if and only if f is an epimorphism.

In case $V = V'$ and $m = \dim V$, then $\|\wedge_m f\| = |\det(f)|$.

1.7.7. If $\xi \in \wedge_m \mathbf{R}^n$ and ξ is simple, then

$$|\xi| = \sup \{ |(\wedge_m g) \xi| : g \in \mathbf{O}^*(n, m) \}.$$

In fact $g \in \mathbf{O}^*(n, m)$ implies $\|\wedge_m g\| = 1$, hence $|(\wedge_m g) \xi| \leq |\xi|$. In case $\xi \neq 0$ we can choose $f \in \mathbf{O}(n, m)$ so that $\text{im } f$ is the subspace T associated with ξ , hence $f \circ f^* T = \mathbf{1}_T$ and $(\wedge_m f \circ \wedge_m f^*) \xi = \xi$; since $\|\wedge_m f\| = 1$, $|(\wedge_m f^*) \xi| \geq |\xi|$.

Similarly, if $\phi \in \wedge^m \mathbf{R}^n$ and ϕ is simple, then

$$|\phi| = \sup \{ |(\wedge^m f) \phi| : f \in \mathbf{O}(n, m) \}.$$

1.7.8. Given $n = \dim V < \infty$ and $E \in \wedge_n V$ with $|E| = 1$ we define linear maps

$$\begin{aligned} * : \wedge_p V &\rightarrow \wedge_{n-p} V, & * \xi &= E \lrcorner \gamma_p(\xi) \text{ for } \xi \in \wedge_p V, \\ * : \wedge^p V &\rightarrow \wedge^{n-p} V, & * \phi &= \gamma_{n-p}(E \lrcorner \phi) \text{ for } \phi \in \wedge^p V. \end{aligned}$$

These maps equal $\mathbf{D}^{p \circ \gamma_p}$ and $\gamma_{n-p} \circ \mathbf{D}^p$, where \mathbf{D}^p is defined as in 1.5.2 with $e_\mu = E$, $\mu = (1, \dots, n)$; using the notation introduced there we find that

$$\begin{aligned} * e_\lambda &= (-1)^N e_\nu, & \text{and} & & * \omega_\lambda &= (-1)^N \omega_\nu, \\ * e_\lambda &= (-1)^M e_\lambda, & \text{and} & & * \omega_\lambda &= (-1)^M \omega_\lambda. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} ** \xi &= (-1)^{p(n-p)} \xi, & \xi \wedge * \eta &= (\xi \bullet \eta) e_{1, \dots, n}, \\ ** \phi &= (-1)^{p(n-p)} \phi, & \phi \wedge * \psi &= (\phi \bullet \psi) \omega_{1, \dots, n}, \\ \langle * \xi, * \phi \rangle &= \langle \xi, \phi \rangle, & \langle \xi, * \phi \rangle &= (-1)^{p(n-p)} \langle * \xi, \phi \rangle \end{aligned}$$

whenever $\xi, \eta \in \wedge_p V$ and $\phi, \psi \in \wedge^p V$.

1.7.9. Whenever V and W are inner product spaces, the space $V \otimes W$ can be given an inner product such that

$$(v \otimes w) \bullet (v' \otimes w') = (v \bullet v') \cdot (w \bullet w') \text{ for } v, v' \in V \text{ and } w, w' \in W.$$

Clearly this equation characterizes a unique symmetric bilinear function. Moreover, if $v_1, \dots, v_n \in V$ and $w_1, \dots, w_n \in W$ are orthonormal sequences, then the vectors $v_i \otimes w_j$ are orthonormal. Therefore we have indeed defined an inner product.

Assuming $\dim V = n < \infty$ and $f, g \in \text{Hom}(V, W)$, hence $\Gamma(f), \Gamma(g) \in \wedge^1 V \otimes W$ according to 1.4.5, we will apply the above definition with V replaced by $\wedge^1 V$ to compute $\Gamma(f) \bullet \Gamma(g)$. Choosing dual orthonormal bases e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ of V and $\wedge^1 V$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(f) \bullet \Gamma(g) &= \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \otimes f(e_i) \right] \bullet \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j \otimes g(e_j) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n f(e_i) \bullet g(e_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n e_i \bullet (f^* \circ g) e_i \\ &= \text{trace} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \otimes (f^* \circ g) e_i \right] = \text{trace}(f^* \circ g). \end{aligned}$$

Replacing f, g by $\wedge_m f, \wedge_m g$ we find that

$$\Gamma(\wedge_m f) \bullet \Gamma(\wedge_m g) = \text{trace}[\wedge_m(f^* \circ g)]$$

for every positive integer m ; in particular

$$\Gamma(\wedge_n f) \bullet \Gamma(\wedge_n g) = \det(f^* \circ g),$$

$$|\Gamma(\wedge_n f) - \Gamma(\wedge_n g)|^2 = \det(f^* \circ f) + \det(g^* \circ g) - 2 \det(f^* \circ g).$$

We note the inequalities

$$\|f\| \leq |\Gamma(f)| \leq n^{\frac{1}{2}} \|f\|.$$

Also, if s and t are orthogonal automorphisms of V and W , then $(\wedge^1 s) \otimes t$ is an orthogonal automorphism of $\wedge^1 V \otimes W$ mapping $\Gamma(f)$ onto $\Gamma(t \circ f \circ s)$, hence $|\Gamma(f)| = |\Gamma(t \circ f \circ s)|$.

Hereafter we abbreviate $\Gamma(f) \bullet \Gamma(g) = f \bullet g$, $|\Gamma(f)| = |f|$.

1.7.10. In case V is a finite dimensional inner product space we define the **discriminant** and the **trace** of a bilinear function $B: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ by letting

$$\text{discr}(B) = \det(f), \quad \text{trace}(B) = \text{trace}(f)$$

where f is the linear endomorphism of V such that

$$f(x) \bullet y = B(x, y) \text{ for } x, y \in V.$$

1.7.11. Assuming $n = \dim V < \infty$, $\sigma \in \wedge_k V$, $\tau \in \wedge_m V$, $\lambda = k + m - n \geq 0$, σ and τ are simple, $|\sigma| = 1 = |\tau|$, S and T are the vector subspaces of V associated with σ and τ , we consider here the linear map

$$f: S \times T \rightarrow V, \quad f(x, y) = x - y \text{ for } (x, y) \in S \times T.$$

We will prove that (see 1.7.8)

$$\|\wedge_n f\| = 2^{n/2} \|(\sigma * \tau)\|.$$

For this purpose we select:

dual orthonormal bases e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ of V and $\wedge^1 V$ such that $e_i \in S$ for $i \leq k$;

dual orthonormal bases e'_1, \dots, e'_n and $\omega'_1, \dots, \omega'_n$ of V and $\wedge^1 V$ such that $e'_i \in T$ for $i > n - m$.

Since $\dim(S \cap T) \geq \lambda$ we may also require that

$$e_i = e'_i, \text{ hence } \omega_i = \omega'_i, \text{ for } n - m < i \leq k.$$

Using the orthonormal basis of $S \times T$ consisting of the vectors

$$2^{-\frac{1}{2}}(e_i, e_j) \text{ and } 2^{-\frac{1}{2}}(e_i, -e_j) \text{ with } n - m < i \leq k,$$

$$(e_i, 0) \text{ with } i \leq n - m, \quad (0, e_j) \text{ with } j > k,$$

and observing that $(e_i, e_j) \in \ker f$ for $n - m < i \leq k$, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \|\wedge_n f\| &= \left| \left(\wedge_n f \right) \left[\bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-m} (e_i, 0) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=n-m+1}^k 2^{-\frac{1}{2}}(e_i, -e_i) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=k+1}^n (0, e_i) \right] \right| \\ &= 2^{n/2} |e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_k \wedge e'_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e'_n| \\ &= 2^{n/2} |\langle e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_k \wedge e'_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e'_n, \omega_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_n \rangle| \\ &= 2^{n/2} |\langle e'_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge e'_n, \omega_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_n \rangle| \\ &= 2^{n/2} |\langle e'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e'_n, \omega'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega'_k \wedge \omega_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_n \rangle| \\ &= 2^{n/2} |\omega'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega'_k \wedge \omega_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_n| \\ &= 2^{n/2} |\omega'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega'_{n-m} \wedge \omega_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_n| = 2^{n/2} \|(\sigma * \tau) \wedge (\sigma * \sigma)\|. \end{aligned}$$

1.7.12. If f is an endomorphism of a finite dimensional inner product space, then

$$2 \operatorname{trace}(\wedge_2 f) = (\operatorname{trace} f)^2 - \operatorname{trace}(f \circ f),$$

$$\operatorname{trace}[\wedge_2(f + f^*)] = 2(\operatorname{trace} f)^2 - \operatorname{trace}(f \circ f) - \operatorname{trace}(f^* \circ f).$$

To verify the first formula we expand both sides of the equation

$$\det(\mathbf{1} + t f) \det(\mathbf{1} - t f) = \det(\mathbf{1} - t^2 f \circ f)$$

in powers of t , using 1.4.5, and compare the coefficients of t^2 . We obtain the second formula by applying the first to $f + f^*$.

1.7.13. Here we assume that V is a **Hilbert space**, which means that V has an inner product \bullet and V is complete relative to the metric with value

$$|x - y| = [(x - y) \bullet (x - y)]^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ for } (x, y) \in V \times V.$$

If $a \in V$, C is a *nonempty closed convex subset* of V and

$$d = \operatorname{dist}(a, C) = \inf \{|a - x| : x \in C\},$$

then there exists a unique $c \in C$ with $d = |a - c|$. To prove this we consider for $0 < \varepsilon \in \mathbf{R}$ the nonempty closed set

$$C_\varepsilon = C \cap \{x : |x - a|^2 \leq d^2 + \varepsilon^2\}$$

and observe that if $x, y \in C_\varepsilon$, then $(x + y)/2 \in C$ and

$$\begin{aligned} d^2 + \varepsilon^2 &\geq (|x - a|^2 + |y - a|^2)/2 \\ &= (|x + y - 2a|^2 + |x - y|^2)/4 \geq d^2 + (|x - y|/2)^2, \end{aligned}$$

hence $|x - y| \leq 2\varepsilon$; thus $\operatorname{diam} C_\varepsilon \leq 2\varepsilon$. Since $C_\delta \subset C_\varepsilon$ for $0 < \delta < \varepsilon$ it follows that $\bigcap \{C_\varepsilon : \varepsilon > 0\}$ consists of a single point $c \in C$. Moreover, in case C is a *vector subspace* of V , then

$$(a - c) \bullet x = 0 \text{ whenever } x \in C,$$

because $c + t x \in C$ for all $t \in \mathbf{R}$, and

$$|a - (c + t x)|^2 = |a - c|^2 - 2t(a - c) \bullet x + t^2 |x|^2$$

is smallest for $t = 0$.

For every continuous linear map $f: V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ there exists a unique $u \in V$ such that $f(v) = u \bullet v$ for all $v \in V$. To prove this in case $f \neq 0$ we choose $a \in V$ with $f(a) = 1$, apply the preceding proposition with $C = \ker f$, let

$$u = |a - c|^{-2}(a - c)$$

and infer that if $v \in V$, then $v - f(v)(a - c) \in C$,

$$(a - c) \bullet [v - f(v)(a - c)] = 0, \quad u \bullet v = f(v).$$

1.8. Mass and comass

1.8.1. Consider a finite dimensional inner product space V with the induced dual inner products and norms (denoted \bullet and $|\cdot|$) on the spaces of m -vectors and m -covectors (see 1.7.5). In addition to these Euclidean norms $|\cdot|$ we shall use *another pair of dual norms* (denoted $\|\cdot\|$) on $\wedge_m V$ and $\wedge^m V$. These other norms are defined as follows:

For each $\phi \in \wedge^m V$, the **comass** of ϕ is

$$\|\phi\| = \sup \{ \langle \xi, \phi \rangle : \xi \in \wedge_m V, \xi \text{ is simple, } |\xi| \leq 1 \}.$$

Always

$$|\phi| \geq \|\phi\| \geq \left(\frac{\dim V}{m} \right)^{-1} |\phi|.$$

Moreover $|\phi| = \|\phi\|$ if and only if ϕ is simple.

For each $\xi \in \wedge_m V$, the **mass** of ξ is

$$\|\xi\| = \sup \{ \langle \xi, \phi \rangle : \phi \in \wedge^m V, \|\phi\| \leq 1 \}.$$

Always

$$|\xi| \leq \|\xi\| \leq \left(\frac{\dim V}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} |\xi|.$$

Moreover $|\xi| = \|\xi\|$ if and only if ξ is simple.

An alternate, more direct, characterization of the mass norm may be derived, using some elementary properties of convex sets (for which see [BF, pages 5, 9] or [BO, Livre V, Chapitre II, § 1] or [EG 2, pages 23, 35]). Since $\wedge^m V \simeq \wedge^1 \wedge_m V$, the set

$$C = \wedge_m V \cap \{ \xi : \|\xi\| \leq 1 \}$$

is the convex hull of the compact connected set

$$S = \wedge_m V \cap \{ \xi : \xi \text{ is simple and } |\xi| \leq 1 \},$$

hence C consists of all finite sums

$$\sum_{i=1}^N c_i \xi_i \quad \text{with } \xi_i \in S, \quad c_i > 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^N c_i = 1$$

and

$$N \leq \dim \wedge_m V = \binom{\dim V}{m}.$$

It follows that for each $\xi \in \wedge_m V$ there exist simple m -vectors ξ_1, \dots, ξ_N with

$$\xi = \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i, \quad \|\xi\| = \sum_{i=1}^N |\xi_i|, \quad N \leq \binom{\dim V}{m}.$$

Consequently

$$\|\xi\| = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N |\xi_i| : \xi_i \text{ are simple and } \xi = \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i \right\}.$$

If $\xi \in \wedge_p V$ and $\eta \in \wedge_q V$, then $\|\xi \wedge \eta\| \leq \|\xi\| \cdot \|\eta\|$.

If $\phi \in \wedge^p V$ and $\psi \in \wedge^q V$, then

$$\|\phi \wedge \psi\| \leq \binom{p+q}{p} \|\phi\| \cdot \|\psi\|;$$

in case ϕ or ψ is simple, then $\|\phi \wedge \psi\| \leq \|\phi\| \cdot \|\psi\|$.

If $f: V \rightarrow V'$ is a linear map of finite dimensional inner product spaces, then

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\wedge^m f) \phi\| &\leq \|f\|^m \cdot \|\phi\| \quad \text{for } \phi \in \wedge^m V', \\ \|(\wedge_m f) \xi\| &\leq \|f\|^m \cdot \|\xi\| \quad \text{for } \xi \in \wedge_m V. \end{aligned}$$

1.8.2. We assume here that V is a vector space over the field \mathbf{C} of complex numbers, with a **Hermitian product** H . Thus

$$H: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$$

is bilinear with respect to \mathbf{R} and satisfies the conditions

$$H(v, i w) = i H(v, w), \quad H(w, v) = \overline{H(v, w)}, \quad H(v, v) > 0 \text{ in case } v \neq 0,$$

where $v, w \in V$, $i^2 = -1$ and $\overline{}$ is complex conjugation. Expressing

$$H = B + i A,$$

where B and A are real valued functions, we find that B is an inner product (hereafter denoted \bullet) and A is an alternating 2-form. Moreover

$$|H(v, w)| \leq |v| \cdot |w| \quad \text{for } v, w \in V;$$

equality holds if and only if v and w are linearly dependent over \mathbf{C} . This follows from the inequality $|v \bullet (c w)| \leq |v| \cdot |c w|$, when $c \in \mathbf{C}$ is chosen so that $|c| = 1$ and $H(v, c w) \in \mathbf{R}$.

For example the vector space \mathbf{C}^n has the Hermitian product

$$H(v, w) = \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{v}_j w_j \quad \text{for } v, w \in \mathbf{C}^n.$$

The inner product B corresponds to the standard inner product of \mathbf{R}^{2n} under the canonical isomorphism $\mathbf{C}^n \simeq \mathbf{R}^{2n}$. If $Z_1, \dots, Z_n \in \wedge^1(\mathbf{C}^n, \mathbf{C})$ are the usual coordinate functions on \mathbf{C}^n , then

$$A = (i/2) \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j \wedge \bar{Z}_j \in \wedge^2(\mathbf{C}^n, \mathbf{C}).$$

We shall now compute the comass of the μ th exterior power $A^\mu \in \wedge^{2\mu} V$, where $\mu \leq \dim V$, by proving **Wirtinger's inequality**:

If $\xi \in \wedge_{2\mu} V$ and ξ is simple, then

$$\langle \xi, A^\mu \rangle \leq \mu! \|\xi\|;$$

equality holds if and only if there exist $v_1, \dots, v_\mu \in V$ such that

$$\xi = v_1 \wedge (\mathbf{i} v_1) \wedge \dots \wedge v_\mu \wedge (\mathbf{i} v_\mu).$$

Consequently $\|A^\mu\| = \mu!$

We assume that $\|\xi\| = 1$.

In case $\mu = 1$, we let $\xi = v \wedge w$, where v and w are orthonormal. Then $H(v, w) = \mathbf{i} A(v, w)$, hence

$$\langle \xi, A \rangle = A(v, w) = H(\mathbf{i} v, w) = (\mathbf{i} v) \bullet w \leq 1;$$

equality holds if and only if $\mathbf{i} v = w$.

In case $\mu > 1$, we consider the 2μ dimensional subspace T associated with ξ , the inclusion map $f: T \rightarrow V$, and the 2-form $(\wedge^2 f) A \in \wedge^2 T$. Then we choose dual orthonormal bases $e_1, \dots, e_{2\mu}$ and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{2\mu}$ of T and $\wedge^1 T$, and nonnegative numbers $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\mu$ such that

$$(\wedge^2 f) A = \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} \lambda_j (\omega_{2j-1} \wedge \omega_{2j}).$$

Noting that $\lambda_j = A(e_{2j-1}, e_{2j}) \leq 1$ for each j , and that $\xi = e_1 e_1 \wedge \dots \wedge e_{2\mu}$ with $e = \pm 1$, we compute

$$(\wedge^{2\mu} f) A^\mu = \mu! \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_\mu \omega_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_{2\mu}, \quad \langle \xi, A^\mu \rangle = e \mu! \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_\mu \leq \mu!;$$

equality holds if and only if $e = 1$ and $\lambda_j = 1$, hence $e_{2j} = \mathbf{i} e_{2j-1}$, for each j .

1.8.3. Very little appears to be known about the structure of the convex sets

$$\wedge^m(R^n) \cap \{\phi: \|\phi\| \leq 1\}.$$

What are their extreme points?

1.8.4. Suppose S and T are mutually orthogonal subspaces of an inner product space V ; $S \rightarrow V$ and $t: T \rightarrow V$ are the inclusion maps, $\xi \in \text{im } \wedge_p S$ and $\eta \in \text{im } \wedge_q T$. The equation

$$\|\xi \wedge \eta\| = \|\xi\| \cdot \|\eta\|$$

holds if either ξ or η is simple. In case ξ is simple one can choose an orthonormal sequence $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_p \in \wedge^1 V$ with

$$\langle \xi, \omega_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_p \rangle = \|\xi\| \quad \text{and} \quad T \subset \ker \omega_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, p,$$

as well as select $\psi \in \wedge^q V$ with $\|\psi\| = 1$ and $\langle \eta, \psi \rangle = \|\eta\|$; it follows that

$$\langle \xi \wedge \eta, \omega_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_p \wedge \psi \rangle = \|\xi\| \cdot \|\eta\|$$

with $\|\omega_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_p \wedge \psi\| \leq 1$, hence $\|\xi \wedge \eta\| \geq \|\xi\| \cdot \|\eta\|$. I do not know whether the above equation holds always (in case neither ξ nor η is simple).

1.9. The symmetric algebra of a vector space

1.9.1. Proceeding similarly as in 1.3, we now consider in the tensor algebra $\otimes_* V$ of any vector space V the two sided ideal $\mathfrak{B} V$ generated by the elements

$$x \otimes y - y \otimes x \in \otimes_2 V$$

corresponding to all $x, y \in V$. The quotient algebra

$$\odot_* V = \otimes_* V / \mathfrak{B} V$$

is called the **symmetric algebra** of V . Clearly

$$\mathfrak{B} V = \bigoplus_{m=2}^{\infty} (\otimes_m V \cap \mathfrak{B} V)$$

is a homogeneous ideal, hence

$$\odot_* V = \bigoplus_{m=2}^{\infty} \odot_m V,$$

where

$$\odot_m V = \otimes_m V / (\otimes_m V \cap \mathfrak{B} V);$$

in particular $\odot_0 V = \mathbf{R}$ and $\odot_1 V = V$. The multiplication in $\odot_* V$ will be denoted by the symbol \odot . Therefore $\odot_m V$ is the vector space generated by all the products $v_1 \odot \dots \odot v_m$ corresponding to $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$, and we see from the definition of $\mathfrak{B} V$ that the symmetric multiplication \odot is commutative.

Among all commutative associative graded algebras with a unit, whose direct summand of index 1 is isomorphic with V , the symmetric algebra $\odot_* V$ is characterized (up to isomorphism) by the following property:

For every commutative associative graded algebra A with a unit element, every linear map of V into A , can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism of $\odot_* V$ into A , carrying $\odot_m V$ into A_m for each m .

It follows that every linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$ can be uniquely extended to a unit preserving algebra homomorphism

$$\odot_* f: \odot_* V \rightarrow \odot_* V',$$

which is the direct sum of the linear maps

$$\odot_m f: \odot_m V \rightarrow \odot_m V',$$

1.9.2. The functor \odot_* converts direct sums of vector spaces into commutative products of algebras:

$$\odot_*(P \oplus Q) \simeq \odot_* P \otimes \odot_* Q.$$

If V has a basis consisting of a single element x , then $\odot_m V$ has a basis consisting of the m 'th symmetric power

$$x^m = x \otimes \cdots \otimes x \quad (m \text{ factors}).$$

Therefore, if V has a basis consisting of e_1, \dots, e_n , then a basis of $\odot_m V$ is formed by the products

$$e^x = (e_1)^{x_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes (e_n)^{x_n}$$

corresponding to all n termed sequences α of nonnegative integers with

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i = m;$$

designating the set of all such sequences by

$$\Xi(n, m)$$

we conclude that

$$\dim \odot_m V = \text{card } \Xi(n, m) = \binom{m+n-1}{n-1}.$$

1.9.3. Suppose k and m are positive integers.

For $t = (t_1, \dots, t_k) \in \mathbf{R}^k$ and $v = (v_1, \dots, v_k) \in V^k$ the k -nomial theorem (which holds in every commutative ring) implies

$$(t_1 v_1 + \cdots + t_k v_k)^m / m! = \sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(k, m)} t^\alpha v^\alpha / \alpha!$$

where $v^\alpha = (v_1)^{\alpha_1} \otimes (v_2)^{\alpha_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes (v_k)^{\alpha_k}$ and

$$t^\alpha = \prod_{i=1}^k (t_i)^{\alpha_i}, \quad \alpha! = \prod_{i=1}^k (\alpha_i!).$$

Taking $k=m$ and letting T be the set of all functions mapping $\{1, \dots, m\}$ into $\{1, -1\}$ we obtain the **polarization formula**

$$\sum_{t \in T} \prod_{i=1}^m t_i \left(\sum_{j=1}^m t_j v_j \right)^m / m! = 2^m v_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_m;$$

in fact the above sum equals

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(m, m)} \left[\sum_{t \in T} \prod_{i=1}^m (t_i)^{1+\alpha_i} \right] v^\alpha / \alpha!,$$

and the bracketed term equals 0 whenever $\alpha_i = 0$ for some i , because summation over T is invariant under the permutation of T mapping t onto $(t_1, \dots, t_{i-1}, -t_i, t_{i+1}, \dots, t_m)$.

1.9.4. The diagonal map of $\odot_* V$ is the unit preserving algebra homomorphism

$$\gamma: \odot_* V \rightarrow \odot_* V \otimes \odot_* V \quad (\text{commutative product})$$

such that $\gamma(v) = v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v$ whenever $v \in V$.

For $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$ we compute the product

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(v_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_m) &= (v_1 \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes (v_m \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v_m) \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{\alpha \in \text{Sh}(p, m-p)} (v_{\alpha(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\alpha(p)}) \otimes (v_{\sigma(p+1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\sigma(m)}). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if e_1, \dots, e_n form a basis of V and $\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)$, then

$$\gamma(e^\alpha) = \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{\alpha \geq \beta \in \Xi(n, p)} \binom{\alpha_1}{\beta_1} \cdots \binom{\alpha_m}{\beta_m} e^\beta \otimes e^{\alpha-\beta},$$

hence

$$\gamma(e^\alpha / \alpha!) = \sum_{p=0}^m \sum_{\alpha \geq \beta \in \Xi(n, p)} [e^\beta / \beta!] \otimes [e^{\alpha-\beta} / (\alpha-\beta)!].$$

We observe (in analogy with 1.3.3) that the diagonal map γ of $\odot_* V$ is associative and commutative, and that it is a natural transformation.

1.10. Symmetric forms and polynomial functions

1.10.1. An m linear function f , which maps the m fold cartesian product V^m of a vector space V into some other vector space W , is called **symmetric** if and only if

$$f(v_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(m)}) = f(v_1, \dots, v_m)$$

whenever $v_1, \dots, v_m \in V$ and σ is a permutation of $\{1, \dots, m\}$. We let

$$\odot^m(V, W)$$

be the vectorspace of all m linear symmetric functions (forms) mapping V^m into W . We shall use the linear isomorphism

$$\odot^m(V, W) \simeq \text{Hom}(\odot_m V, W),$$

where the corresponding $f \in \odot^m(V, W)$ and $h \in \text{Hom}(\odot_m V, W)$ are related by the condition

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_m) = h(v_1 \odot \dots \odot v_m) \text{ whenever } v_1, \dots, v_m \in V;$$

when this is the case we write

$$\langle \xi, f \rangle = \langle \xi, h \rangle = h(\xi) \text{ for } \xi \in \odot_m V.$$

Moreover there is an obvious linear isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}(\odot_m V, W) \simeq \text{Hom}^m(\odot_* V, W),$$

where the right member means the set of all those linear maps of $\odot_* V$ into W which vanish on $\odot_n V$ whenever $n \neq m$.

We define $\odot^0(V, W) = W$,

$$\odot^*(V, W) = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} \odot^m(V, W),$$

and abbreviate $\odot^m(V, \mathbf{R}) = \odot^m V$, $\odot^*(V, \mathbf{R}) = \odot^* V$.

Each linear map $f: V \rightarrow V'$ induces a dual linear map

$$\odot^*(f, W): \odot^*(V', W) \rightarrow \odot^*(V, W)$$

which is the direct sum of the linear maps

$$\odot^m(f, W): \odot^m(V', W) \rightarrow \odot^m(V, W)$$

characterized by the equations

$$\langle \xi, \odot^m(f, W)\phi \rangle = \langle (\odot_m f)\xi, \phi \rangle$$

for $\xi \in \odot_m V$ and $\phi \in \odot^m(V', W)$.

We abbreviate $\odot^*(f, \mathbf{R}) = \odot^* f$.

1.10.2. Whenever W is an (ungraded) algebra over \mathbf{R} , we shall use the diagonal map γ of $\odot_* V$ (in analogy with 1.4.2) to turn the graded vectorspace $\odot^*(V, W)$ into the graded algebra of symmetric forms of V with coefficients in W . For

$$\phi \in \text{Hom}^p(\odot_* V, W) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi \in \text{Hom}^q(\odot_* V, W)$$

we define the symmetric product

$$\phi \odot \psi \in \text{Hom}^{p+q}(\odot_* V, W)$$

to be the composition

$$\odot_* V \xrightarrow{\gamma} \odot_* V \otimes \odot_* V \xrightarrow{\phi \otimes \psi} W \otimes W \xrightarrow{\gamma} W,$$

where γ corresponds to the multiplication of W .

If W is associative, or commutative, or has a unit element, then $\odot^*(V, W)$ has the same property. Each induced map $\odot^*(f, W)$ is a homomorphism of algebras.

From the shuffle formula for γ we see that

$$(\phi \odot \psi)(v_1, \dots, v_{p+q}) = \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}(p, q)} \phi(v_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(p)}) \cdot \psi(v_{\sigma(p+1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(p+q)})$$

whenever $\phi \in \odot^p(V, W)$, $\psi \in \odot^q(V, W)$ and $v_1, \dots, v_{p+q} \in V$.

If e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ form dual bases of V and $\text{Hom}(V, \mathbf{R}) = \odot^1 V$, then the products

$$\omega^{\alpha} = (\omega_1)^{\alpha_1} \odot \dots \odot (\omega_n)^{\alpha_n} \in \odot^m V$$

corresponding to all $\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)$ form a basis of $\odot^m V$, which is dual to the base $\{e^{\alpha}/\alpha!: \alpha \in \Xi(n, m)\}$ of $\odot_m V$.

In the definition of the symmetric product of forms the multiplication of an algebra W may be replaced by any bilinear map $\mu: W_1 \times W_2 \rightarrow W_3$; thus one obtains

$$\phi \odot \psi \in \odot^{p+q}(V, W_3) \text{ for } \phi \in \odot^p(V, W_1), \psi \in \odot^q(V, W_2).$$

1.10.3. Proceeding just as in 1.5.1 we define for $p \leq q$ the interior multiplications

$$\lrcorner: \odot_p V \times \odot^q(V, W) \rightarrow \odot^{q-p}(V, W), \quad \llcorner: \odot_q V \times \odot^p V \rightarrow \odot_{q-p} V.$$

If e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are dual bases of V and $\odot^1 V$, and if $\alpha \in \Xi(n, p)$ and $\beta \in \Xi(n, q)$, then

$$e^{\alpha} \lrcorner (\omega^{\beta}/\beta!) = \omega^{\beta-\alpha}/(\beta-\alpha)!, \quad (e^{\beta}/\beta!) \llcorner \omega^{\alpha} = e^{\beta-\alpha}/(\beta-\alpha)!$$

in case $\alpha \leq \beta$; otherwise these interior products equal 0.

1.10.4. A map $P: V \rightarrow W$ is called a **homogeneous polynomial function of degree m** if and only if there exists a form $\phi \in \odot^m(V, W)$ such that

$$P(x) = \langle x^m/m!, \phi \rangle \text{ for } x \in V.$$

The polarization formula (1.9.3) shows that $P = 0$ if and only if $\phi = 0$. Thus $\odot^m(V, W)$ is linearly isomorphic with the vector space of all homogeneous polynomial functions of degree m mapping V into W .

More generally, a map $P: V \rightarrow W$ is called a **polynomial function** if and only if there exists an integer $M \geq 0$ and forms $\phi_m \in \odot^m(V, W)$ corresponding to $m = 0, \dots, M$ such that

$$P(x) = \sum_{m=0}^M \langle x^m / m! , \phi_m \rangle \text{ for } x \in V.$$

Since this formula implies

$$P(tx) = \sum_{m=0}^M t^m \langle x^m / m! , \phi_m \rangle \text{ for } x \in V \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{R},$$

we see that $P = 0$ if and only if $\phi_m = 0$ for $m = 0, \dots, M$. Thus $\odot^*(V, W)$ is linearly isomorphic with the vector space of all polynomial maps of V into W , and we can define

$$\text{degree } P = \sup \{m : \phi_m \neq 0\} \cup \{0\}$$

whenever P and ϕ_0, \dots, ϕ_M are related as above. Moreover, in case W is an algebra, the symmetric product \odot corresponds under the preceding isomorphism to pointwise multiplication in the function space W^V , hence the algebra $\odot^*(V, W)$ is isomorphic with the algebra of polynomial maps of V into W , in fact whenever $\phi \in \odot^p(V, W)$ and $\psi \in \odot^q(V, W)$ the shuffle formula shows that, for $x \in V$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle x^{p+q} / (p+q)! , \phi \odot \psi \rangle \\ &= \text{card } \text{Sh}(p, q) \cdot \langle x^p, \phi \rangle \cdot \langle x^q, \psi \rangle / (p+q)! = \langle x^p / p! , \phi \rangle \cdot \langle x^q / q! , \psi \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Whenever P and ϕ_0, \dots, ϕ_M are related as above we use the binomial theorem to obtain for $x, v \in V$ the **Taylor formula**

$$P(x+v) = \sum_{m=0}^M \sum_{i=0}^m \langle v^i / i! \odot x^{m-i} / (m-i)! , \phi_m \rangle = \sum_{i=0}^M \langle v^i / i! , S_i(x) \rangle,$$

where

$$S_i(x) = \sum_{m=i}^M x^{m-i} / (m-i)! \cdot \downarrow \phi_m.$$

We observe that S_i is a polynomial function mapping V into $\odot^i(V, W)$; in 3.1.11 it will be identified with the i -th differential of P . Here we also note that

$$S_i(x+v) = \sum_{m=i}^M t^{m-i} / (m-i)! \cdot \downarrow S_m(x),$$

because the right member of this equation equals

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{m=i}^M v^{m-i} / (m-i)! \cdot \downarrow \sum_{j=m}^M x^j - m / (j-m)! \cdot \downarrow \phi_j \\ &= \sum_{j=i}^M \sum_{m=i}^j (v^{m-i} / (m-i)! \odot x^{j-m} / (j-m)!) \cdot \downarrow \phi_j \\ &= \sum_{j=i}^M (v + x)^{j-i} / (j-i)! \cdot \downarrow \phi_j = S_i(v+x). \end{aligned}$$

To represent the polynomial function P in terms of a basis e_1, \dots, e_n of V , we recall 1.9.3 and find that

$$P\left(\sum_{i=1}^n t_i e_i\right) = \sum_{m=0}^M \sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)} \langle e^\alpha / \alpha! , \phi_m \rangle t^\alpha$$

whenever $t \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

1.10.5. In analogy with 1.7.5, any given inner product of V can be used to construct inner products on the spaces $\odot_m V$, by extending the given polarity to an algebra homomorphism of $\odot^* V$ into $\odot^* V$. If e_1, \dots, e_n are orthonormal in V , then the products $(\alpha!)^{-1} e^\alpha$ corresponding to all $\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)$ are orthonormal in $\odot_m V$. The norms corresponding to such inner products satisfy the inequality

$$|v_1 \odot \dots \odot v_m| \leq (m!)^{\frac{1}{2}} |v_1| \cdot \dots \cdot |v_m| \text{ for } v_1, \dots, v_m \in V.$$

Other useful norms can be constructed by adapting the method of 1.8.1 as follows: Whenever V and W are normed vector spaces and $\phi \in \odot^m(V, W)$ we define

$$\|\phi\| = \sup \{|\phi(v_1, \dots, v_m)| : v_i \in V \text{ and } |v_i| \leq 1 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, m\}.$$

Clearly $\|(a_1 \odot \dots \odot a_j) \cdot \downarrow \phi\| \leq |a_1| \cdot \dots \cdot |a_j| \cdot \|\phi\|$ in case $j \leq m$ and $a_1, \dots, a_j \in V$. The shuffle formula shows that

$$\|\phi \odot \psi\| \leq \binom{p+q}{p} \|\phi\| \cdot \|\psi\|$$

for $\phi \in \odot^p(V, W)$ and $\psi \in \odot^q(V, W)$, provided W is a normed algebra with $|w \cdot z| \leq |w| \cdot |z|$ for $w, z \in W$; moreover

$$\|\phi^k\| = k! \|\phi\|^k \text{ for } \phi \in \odot^1(V, W), k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

in case W is associative and $|w^k| = |w|^k$ for $w \in W$. We also define

$$\|\xi\|^\xi = \sup \{|\langle \xi, \phi \rangle| : \phi \in \odot^m V \text{ and } \|\phi\| \leq 1\}$$

whenever $\xi \in \odot_m V$, and readily verify that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\xi \circ \eta\| &\leq \|\xi\| \cdot \|\eta\| \quad \text{for } \xi \in \odot_p V, \eta \in \odot_q V; \\ \|x^k\| &= |x|^k \quad \text{for } x \in V, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

If V and $\odot^1 V$ have dual basic sequences e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ with $|e_i| = \|\omega_i\| = 1$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$, then

$$\alpha! \leq \|\omega^\alpha\| \leq (\Sigma \alpha!) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha! / (\Sigma \alpha!) \leq \|e^\alpha\| \leq 1 \quad \text{for } \alpha \in \Xi(n, m).$$

It may also be shown that $\|\xi\| > 0$ for $\xi \in \odot_m V \sim \{0\}$, and (compare 1.8.1) that $\|\xi\|$ equals the infimum of all finite sums

$$\sum_{j=1}^N |v_{1,j}| \cdots |v_{m,j}|$$

corresponding to $v_{i,j} \in V$ with

$$\xi = \sum_{j=1}^N (v_{1,j} \odot \cdots \odot v_{m,j});$$

if $\dim V < \infty$ one can take $N \leq \dim \odot_m V$.

For every homogeneous polynomial function $P: V \rightarrow W$ of degree m we define

$$\|P\| = \sup \{ |P(x)| : x \in V, |x| \leq 1 \}.$$

Choosing $\phi \in \odot^m(V, W)$ so that $P(x) = \langle x^m / m!, \phi \rangle$ whenever $x \in V$, we observe that

$$m! \|P\| \leq \|\phi\| \leq m^m \|P\|$$

as a consequence of the polarization formula; for the case when V is an inner product space it was shown in [H 1] that $m! \|P\| = \|\phi\|$. Recalling 1.9.3 we also obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| P \left(\sum_{j=1}^k t_j v_j \right) \right| &\leq \sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(k, m)} |t^\alpha / \alpha!| \cdot |\langle v^\alpha, \phi \rangle| \\ &\leq \|\phi\| \sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(k, m)} |t^\alpha / \alpha!| = \|\phi\| \left(\sum_{j=1}^k |t_j| \right)^m / m! \end{aligned}$$

provided $|v_j| \leq 1$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$.

1.10.6. Assuming that V and W are inner product spaces with $\dim V = n < \infty$, we first endow $\odot^m V$ with the inner product such that the polarity described in the first paragraph of 1.10.5 is an orthogonal isomorphism mapping $\odot_m V$ onto $\odot^m V$; then use the method of 1.7.9 to define an inner product on

$$\odot^m(V, W) \simeq [\odot^m V] \otimes W.$$

Now suppose e_1, \dots, e_n and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are dual orthonormal bases of V and $\odot^1 V$, hence $\alpha!^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^\alpha$ and $\alpha!^{-\frac{1}{2}} \omega^\alpha$ corresponding to $\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)$ form dual orthonormal bases of $\odot_m V$ and $\odot^m V$. With each ϕ in $\odot^m(V, W)$ we associate

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)} \alpha!^{-\frac{1}{2}} \omega^\alpha \otimes \langle \alpha!^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^\alpha, \phi \rangle$$

in $[\odot^m V] \otimes W$ and compute

$$|\phi|^2 = \sum_{\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)} |\langle \alpha!^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^\alpha, \phi \rangle|^2.$$

Letting $\mathcal{S}(n, m)$ be the set of all functions mapping $\{1, \dots, m\}$ into $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and observing that for each $\alpha \in \Xi(n, m)$ there exist precisely $m! / \alpha!$ sequences $s \in \mathcal{S}(n, m)$ such that

$$\alpha(j) = \text{card} \{ i : s(i) = j \} \quad \text{for } j \in \{1, \dots, m\},$$

we obtain the formula

$$m! |\phi|^2 = \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}(n, m)} |\langle e_{s(1)} \odot \cdots \odot e_{s(m)}, \phi \rangle|^2.$$

It follows that

$$|\langle x^m / m!, \phi \rangle| \leq m!^{-\frac{1}{2}} |x|^m |\phi| \quad \text{for } x \in V.$$

Recalling 1.10.5 we see that

$$\|\phi\| \leq m^m m!^{-\frac{1}{2}} |\phi| \quad \text{and} \quad |\phi| \leq m!^{-\frac{1}{2}} m^{m/2} \|\phi\|.$$