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Cotangent bundle T^*M on a smooth manifold M

Definition. Cotangent bundle T^*M on a smooth manifold M

With local coordinates $x : U \subseteq M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\dim M}$ we have induced **local coordinates**

$$(x, \xi) : U \times \pi^{-1}(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2 \dim M} \\ \left(q, \sum_i \xi_i dx_i \right) \mapsto (x(q), \xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$$

tautological 1-form

Definition. Tautological 1-form on T^*M

We have the projection smooth map

$$\pi : T^*M \rightarrow M$$

then its derivative is the pushforward

$$\pi_* : TT^*M \rightarrow TM$$

whose dual is the *pullback*

$$\pi^* : T^*M \rightarrow T^*T^*M$$

which means it is a 1-form on T^*M called the **tautological 1-form**.

The 2-form

$$\omega := -d\pi_*$$

is a symplectic form on T^*M

- On we have

$$(\pi^*)_{(p, \sum_i \xi_i dx_i)} = \sum_i \xi_i dx_i$$

and

$$\omega = \sum_i dx_i \wedge d\xi_i$$

(Reproducing property) Let

$$\mu : M \rightarrow T^*M$$

be a smooth 1-form on M , which in particular is a smooth map. Then the pullback of the tautological 1-form is

$$\mu^*(\pi^*) = \mu$$

Conversely if $\alpha \in \Omega^1(T^*M)$ such that $\mu^*\alpha = \mu$ for all $\mu \in \Omega^1(M)$ then α is the tautological 1-form.



$$\mu^*\pi^* = (\pi \circ \mu)^*(\mu)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vec}(M) &\rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty(T^*M) \\ X &\mapsto (p \mapsto p(X)) \end{aligned}$$

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