5.3 Computing volumes of manifolds 531

Exercise 5.2.4, c, part iii is much harder than the others; even after finding an equation for the curve bounding the parametrizing region, you may need a computer to visualize it. c. Parametrize the part of S where

i. z > 0; ii. x > 0, y > 0; iii. z > x + y.

*5.2.5 Consider the open subset of \mathbb{R} constructed in example 4.4.3: list the rationals between 0 and 1, say a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots , and take the union

$$U = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(a_i - \frac{1}{2^{i+k}}, \ a_i + \frac{1}{2^{i+k}} \right)$$

for some integer k > 2. Show that U is a one-dimensional manifold and that it can be parametrized according to definition 5.2.3.

5.3 Computing volumes of manifolds

The k-dimensional volume of a k-dimensional manifold M embedded in any \mathbb{R}^n is given by

$$\operatorname{vol}_k M = \int_M |d^k \mathbf{x}|, \qquad 5.3.1$$

where $|d^k \mathbf{x}|$ is the integrand that takes a k-parallelogram and returns its kdimensional volume. Thus the length of a curve C can be written $\int_C |d^1 \mathbf{x}|$, and the area of a surface S can be written $\int_S |d^2 \mathbf{x}|$. Heuristically, this integral is defined by cutting up the manifold into little anchored k-parallelograms, adding their k-dimensional volumes and taking the limits of the sums as the decomposition becomes infinitely fine.

We know how to compute $|d^k \mathbf{x}|$ of a k-parallelogram: if $T = [\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1, \dots, \vec{\mathbf{v}}_k]$, then

$$|d^{k}\mathbf{x}|P_{\mathbf{x}}(\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{1},\ldots,\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{k}) = \operatorname{vol}_{k}P_{\mathbf{x}}(\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{1},\ldots,\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{k}) = \sqrt{\det\left(T^{\top}T\right)}.$$
 5.3.2

To compute the volume of a k-manifold M, we parametrize M by a mapping γ and then compute the volume of the k-parallelograms spanned by the *partial derivatives* of γ , sum them, and take the limit as the decomposition becomes infinitely fine. This gives the following definition.

Definition 5.3.1 (Volume of manifold). Let $M \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a smooth k-dimensional manifold, U a pavable subset of \mathbb{R}^k , and $\gamma : U \to M$ a parametrization according to definition 5.2.3. Let X be as in that definition. Then

$$\operatorname{vol}_{k} M = \int_{\gamma(U-X)} |d^{k} \mathbf{x}|$$

=
$$\int_{U-X} \left(|d^{k} \mathbf{x}| \left(P_{\gamma(\mathbf{u})} \left(\overrightarrow{D_{1}} \gamma(\mathbf{u}), \dots, \overrightarrow{D_{k}} \gamma(\mathbf{u}) \right) \right) \right) |d^{k} \mathbf{u}|$$

=
$$\int_{U-X} \sqrt{\operatorname{det}([\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})]^{\top} [\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})])} |d^{k} \mathbf{u}|.$$
 5.3.3

In equation 5.3.3,

$$P_{\gamma(\mathbf{u})}\left(\overrightarrow{D_1\gamma}(\mathbf{u}),\ldots,\overrightarrow{D_k\gamma}(\mathbf{u})\right)$$

is the k-parallelogram anchored at $\gamma(\mathbf{u})$ and spanned by the partial derivatives

$$\overrightarrow{D_1\gamma}(\mathbf{u}),\ldots,\overrightarrow{D_k\gamma}(\mathbf{u});$$

 $|d^k \mathbf{x}|$ of this parallelogram is the volume of the parallelogram (see proposition 5.1.1).

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Remark. When the manifold is a curve parametrized by $\gamma : [a, b] \to C$, equation 5.3.3 can be written

$$\int_{C} |d^{1}\mathbf{x}| = \int_{[a,b]} \sqrt{\det(\vec{\gamma'}(t) \cdot \vec{\gamma'}(t))} \ |dt| = \int_{a}^{b} |\vec{\gamma'}(t)| \ dt, \qquad 5.3.4$$

which is compatible with definition 3.8.5 of arc length. \triangle

Definition 5.3.1 is a special case of the following:

Definition 5.3.2 (Integral over a manifold with respect to volume). Let $M \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a smooth k-dimensional manifold, U a pavable subset of \mathbb{R}^k , and $\gamma : U \to M$ a parametrization, and let X be as in definition 5.2.3. Then $f : M \to \mathbb{R}$ is integrable over M with respect to volume if the integral on the right of equation 5.3.5 exists, and the integral is

$$\int_{M} f(\mathbf{x}) |d^{k}\mathbf{x}| = \int_{U-X} f(\gamma(\mathbf{u})) \sqrt{\det([\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})]^{\top}[\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})])} |d^{k}\mathbf{u}|. 5.3.5$$

Let us see why definition 5.3.2 should be right. To simplify the discussion, let us consider the area of a surface parametrized by $\gamma : U \to \mathbb{R}^3$. This area should be

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \sum_{C \in \mathcal{D}_N(\mathbb{R}^2)} \text{Area of } \gamma(C \cap U).$$
 5.3.6

That is, we make a dyadic decomposition of \mathbb{R}^2 and see how γ maps to S the dyadic squares C that are in U or straddle it. We then sum the areas of the resulting regions $\gamma(C \cap U)$. For $C \subset U$, this is the same as $\gamma(C)$; for C that straddle U, we add to the sum the area of the part of C that is in U.

The side length of a square C is $1/2^N$, so at least when $C \subset U$, the set $\gamma(C \cap U)$ is, as shown in figure 5.3.1, approximately the parallelogram

$$P_{\gamma(\mathbf{u})}\left(\frac{1}{2^{N}}\overrightarrow{D_{1}}\gamma(\mathbf{u}), \frac{1}{2^{N}}\overrightarrow{D_{2}}\gamma(\mathbf{u})\right), \qquad 5.3.7$$

where \mathbf{u} is the lower left corner of C.

That parallelogram has area

$$\frac{1}{2^{2N}}\sqrt{\det[\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})]^{\top}[\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})]}.$$
 5.3.8

So it seems reasonable to expect that the error we make by replacing

Area of
$$\gamma(C \cap U)$$
 by $\operatorname{vol}_2(C) \sqrt{\det[\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})]^{\top}[\mathbf{D}\gamma(\mathbf{u})]}$ 5.3.9

In definitions 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 we integrate over U - X, not U, because γ may not be differentiable on X. But X has k-dimensional volume 0, so this doesn't affect the integral.

Definition 5.3.2: Such an integral is sometimes referred to as the *integral of a density*, as opposed to the integral of a differential form.





A surface approximated by parallelograms. The point \mathbf{x}_0 corresponds to $\gamma(\mathbf{u})$, and the vectors $\vec{\mathbf{v}}_1$ and $\vec{\mathbf{v}}_2$ correspond to the vectors

