

De Rham cohomology for $S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{R}^n - \{0\}$

By de Rham's Theorem we know that

$$H_{DR}^{n-1}(S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}) \cong H^{n-1}(S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R},$$

(SINGULAR COHOMOLOGY)

so there is a closed $(n-1)$ -form on $S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}$ which is not exact. Here is an explicit example; we identify $S^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R}$ with $\mathbb{R}^n - \{0\}$ as usual.

$$\omega = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1} \cdot x^k}{(\sum (x^i)^2)^{n/2}} dx^1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{dx^k} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^n.$$

OMIT

Verifying that $d\omega = 0$ is left as an exercise. To see ω is not exact, consider its integral over $S^{n-1} \cong \partial \Delta_n$. As in the case $n=3$,

the integral $\int_{S^{n-1}} \omega$ is the "hypervolume" of S^{n-1} , which is positive, but Stokes' Formula implies

$$\text{that if } \omega = d\theta, \text{ then } \int_{S^{n-1}} \omega = \int_{S^{n-1}} d\theta = \int_{\partial S^{n-1}} \theta = \int_{\emptyset} \theta$$

which is zero.