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**This book introduces the tools of modern differential geometry – exterior calculus, manifolds, vector bundles, connections – to advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students in mathematics, physics, and engineering. It covers both classical surface theory and the modern theory of connections and curvature, and includes a chapter on applications to theoretical physics. The only prerequisites are multivariate calculus and linear algebra; no knowledge of topology is assumed.**

**The powerful and concise calculus of differential forms is used throughout. Through the use of numerous concrete examples, the author develops computational skills in the familiar Euclidean context before exposing the reader to the more abstract setting of manifolds. There are nearly 200 exercises, making the book ideal for both classroom use and self-study.**

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**R.W.R. Darling**

*University of South Florida*



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# Contents

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	<b>Preface</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Exterior Algebra</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Exterior Powers of a Vector Space	1
	1.2 Multilinear Alternating Maps and Exterior Products	5
	1.3 Exercises	7
	1.4 Exterior Powers of a Linear Transformation	8
	1.5 Exercises	12
	1.6 Inner Products	13
	1.7 The Hodge Star Operator	17
	1.8 Exercises	20
	1.9 Some Formal Algebraic Constructions	21
	1.10 History and Bibliography	23
<b>2</b>	<b>Exterior Calculus on Euclidean Space</b>	<b>24</b>
	2.1 Tangent Spaces – the Euclidean Case	24
	2.2 Differential Forms on a Euclidean Space	28
	2.3 Operations on Differential Forms	31
	2.4 Exercises	33
	2.5 Exterior Derivative	35
	2.6 Exercises	39
	2.7 The Differential of a Map	41
	2.8 The Pullback of a Differential Form	43

<b>vi</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
	2.9 Exercises	47
	2.10 History and Bibliography	49
	2.11 Appendix: Maxwell's Equations	50
<b>3</b>	<b>Submanifolds of Euclidean Spaces</b>	<b>53</b>
	3.1 Immersions and Submersions	53
	3.2 Definition and Examples of Submanifolds	55
	3.3 Exercises	60
	3.4 Parametrizations	61
	3.5 Using the Implicit Function Theorem to Parametrize a Submanifold	64
	3.6 Matrix Groups as Submanifolds	69
	3.7 Groups of Complex Matrices	71
	3.8 Exercises	72
	3.9 Bibliography	75
<b>4</b>	<b>Surface Theory Using Moving Frames</b>	<b>76</b>
	4.1 Moving Orthonormal Frames on Euclidean Space	76
	4.2 The Structure Equations	78
	4.3 Exercises	79
	4.4 An Adapted Moving Orthonormal Frame on a Surface	81
	4.5 The Area Form	85
	4.6 Exercises	87
	4.7 Curvature of a Surface	88
	4.8 Explicit Calculation of Curvatures	91
	4.9 Exercises	94
	4.10 The Fundamental Forms: Exercises	95
	4.11 History and Bibliography	97
<b>5</b>	<b>Differential Manifolds</b>	<b>98</b>
	5.1 Definition of a Differential Manifold	98
	5.2 Basic Topological Vocabulary	100
	5.3 Differentiable Mappings between Manifolds	102
	5.4 Exercises	104
	5.5 Submanifolds	105
	5.6 Embeddings	107

<b>Contents</b>		<b>vii</b>
5.7	Constructing Submanifolds without Using Charts	110
5.8	Submanifolds-with-Boundary	111
5.9	Exercises	114
5.10	Appendix: Open Sets of a Submanifold	116
5.11	Appendix: Partitions of Unity	117
5.12	History and Bibliography	119
<b>6</b>	<b>Vector Bundles</b>	<b>120</b>
6.1	Local Vector Bundles	120
6.2	Constructions with Local Vector Bundles	122
6.3	General Vector Bundles	125
6.4	Constructing a Vector Bundle from Transition Functions	130
6.5	Exercises	132
6.6	The Tangent Bundle of a Manifold	134
6.7	Exercises	139
6.8	History and Bibliography	141
6.9	Appendix: Constructing Vector Bundles	141
<b>7</b>	<b>Frame Fields, Forms, and Metrics</b>	<b>144</b>
7.1	Frame Fields for Vector Bundles	144
7.2	Tangent Vectors as Equivalence Classes of Curves	147
7.3	Exterior Calculus on Manifolds	148
7.4	Exercises	151
7.5	Indefinite Riemannian Metrics	152
7.6	Examples of Riemannian Manifolds	153
7.7	Orthonormal Frame Fields	156
7.8	An Isomorphism between the Tangent and Cotangent Bundles	160
7.9	Exercises	161
7.10	History and Bibliography	163
<b>8</b>	<b>Integration on Oriented Manifolds</b>	<b>164</b>
8.1	Volume Forms and Orientation	164
8.2	Criterion for Orientability in Terms of an Atlas	167
8.3	Orientation of Boundaries	169
8.4	Exercises	172

<b>viii</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
	8.5 Integration of an $n$ -Form over a Single Chart	174
	8.6 Global Integration of $n$ -Forms	178
	8.7 The Canonical Volume Form for a Metric	181
	8.8 Stokes's Theorem	183
	8.9 The Exterior Derivative Stands Revealed	184
	8.10 Exercises	187
	8.11 History and Bibliography	189
	8.12 Appendix: Proof of Stokes's Theorem	189
<b>9</b>	<b>Connections on Vector Bundles</b>	<b>194</b>
	9.1 Koszul Connections	194
	9.2 Connections via Vector-Bundle-valued Forms	197
	9.3 Curvature of a Connection	202
	9.4 Exercises	206
	9.5 Torsion-free Connections	212
	9.6 Metric Connections	216
	9.7 Exercises	219
	9.8 History and Bibliography	222
<b>10</b>	<b>Applications to Gauge Field Theory</b>	<b>223</b>
	10.1 The Role of Connections in Field Theory	223
	10.2 Geometric Formulation of Gauge Field Theory	225
	10.3 Special Unitary Groups and Quaternions	231
	10.4 Quaternion Line Bundles	233
	10.5 Exercises	238
	10.6 The Yang–Mills Equations	242
	10.7 Self-duality	244
	10.8 Instantons	247
	10.9 Exercises	249
	10.10 History and Bibliography	250
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>251</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>253</b>



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# Preface

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## **Purpose**

This book represents an extended version of my lecture notes for a one-semester course on differential geometry, aimed at students without knowledge of topology. Indeed the only prerequisites are a solid grasp of multivariate calculus and of linear algebra. The goal is to train advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students in exterior calculus (including integration), covariant differentiation (including curvature calculations), and the identification and uses of submanifolds and vector bundles. It is hoped that this will serve both the minority who proceed to study advanced texts in differential geometry, and the majority who specialize in other subjects, including physics and engineering.

## **Summary of the Contents**

Every generation since Newton has seen a richer and deeper presentation of the differential and integral calculus. The nineteenth century gave us vector calculus and tensor analysis, and the twentieth century has produced, among other things, the exterior calculus and the theory of connections on vector bundles. As the title implies, this book is based on the premise that differential forms provide a concise and efficient approach to many constructions in geometry and in calculus on manifolds.

Chapter 1 is algebraic; Chapters 2, 4, 8, and 9 are mostly about differential forms; Chapters 4, 9, and 10 are about connections; and Chapters 3, 5, 6, and 7 are about underlying structures such as manifolds and vector bundles. The reader is not mistaken if he detects a strong influence of Harley Flanders's delightful 1989 text. I would also like to acknowledge that I have made heavy use of ideas from Berger and Gostiaux [1988], and (in Chapters 6 and 9) of my handwritten Warwick University 1981 lecture notes from John Rawnsley, as well as other standard differential geometry texts. Chapter 9 on connections is in the spirit of S. S. Chern [1989], p. ii, who remarks that "the notion of a connection in a vector bundle will soon find its way into a class on

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**x Preface**

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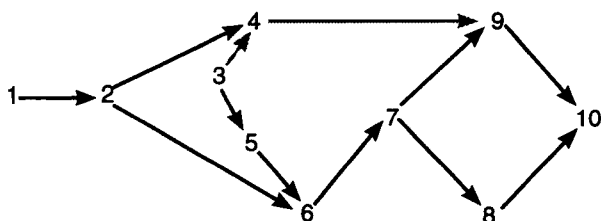
advanced calculus, as it is a fundamental notion and its applications are widespread”; these applications include the field theories of physics (see Chapter 10), the study of information loss in parametric statistics, and computer algorithms for recognizing surface deformation. Regrettably the Frobenius Theorem and its applications, and de Rham cohomology, are among many other topics which could not be included; see Flanders [1989] for an excellent treatment of the former, and Berger and Gostiaux [1988] for the latter.

### Prerequisites

- **Linear Algebra:** finite-dimensional vector spaces and linear transformations, including the notions of image, kernel, rank, inner product, and determinant.
- **Vector Calculus:** derivative as a linear mapping; grad, div, and curl; line, surface, and volume integrals, including Green’s Theorem and Stokes’s Theorem; implicit function theorem; and the concept of an open set in Euclidean space.

### Advice to the Instructor

In the diagram below, a solid arrow denotes dependency of chapters, and a fuzzy arrow denotes a conceptual relationship. In one semester, an instructor would probably be hard pressed to cover more than six chapters in depth. Chapters 1 and 2 are essential. Some instructors may choose to emphasize the easier and more concrete material in Chapters 3 and 4, which is used in the sequel only as a source of examples, while others may prefer to move rapidly into Chapters 5 and 6 so as to have time for Chapter 8 on integration and/or Chapter 9 on connections. Alternatively one could deemphasize abstract differential manifolds (i.e., skip over Chapter 5), cover only the “local vector bundle” part of Chapter 6, and treat Chapters 7 to 10 in a similarly “local” fashion. As always, students cannot expect to master the material without doing the exercises.



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