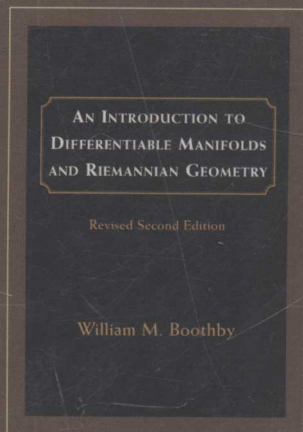


# An Introduction to Differentiable Manifolds and Riemannian Geometry

# 微分流形与黎曼几何引论

(英文版 · 第2版修订版)

[ 美 ] William M. Boothby 著



人民邮电出版社  
POSTS & TELECOM PRESS

江南大学图书馆



20085784

**TURING**

图灵原版数字·统计学系列

**An Introduction to Differentiable  
Manifolds and Riemannian Geometry**

**微分流形与  
黎曼几何引论**

(英文版·第2版修订版)

[美] William M. Boothby 著



人民邮电出版社

北京

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

微分流形与黎曼几何引论: 第2版: 修订版. 英文/ (美) 布思比 (Boothby, W.M.) 著. —北京: 人民邮电出版社, 2007.10

(图灵原版数学·统计学系列)

ISBN 978-7-115-16599-2

I. 微... II. 布... III. ①可微分流形—教材—英文 ②黎曼几何—教材—英文  
IV. O189.3 O186.12

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2007) 第112607号

### 内 容 提 要

这是一本非常好的微分流形入门书. 全书从一些基本的微积分知识入手, 然后一点一点深入介绍, 主要内容有: 流形介绍、多变量函数和映射、微分流形和子流形、流形上的向量场、张量和流形上的张量场、流形上的积分法、黎曼流形上的微分法以及曲率. 书后有难度适中的习题, 全书配有很多精美的插图.

本书非常适合初学者阅读, 可作为数学系、物理系、机械系等理工科高年级本科生和研究生的教材.

图灵原版数学·统计学系列

### 微分流形与黎曼几何引论 (英文版·第2版修订版)

- ◆ 著 [美] William M. Boothby  
责任编辑 明永玲
- ◆ 人民邮电出版社出版发行 北京市崇文区夕照寺街14号  
邮编 100061 电子函件 315@ptpress.com.cn  
网址 <http://www.ptpress.com.cn>  
北京铭成印刷有限公司印刷  
新华书店总店北京发行所经销
- ◆ 开本: 700 × 1000 1/16  
印张: 27  
字数: 442千字 2007年10月第1版  
印数: 1—3000册 2007年10月北京第1次印刷

著作权合同登记号 图字: 01-2007-3375号

ISBN 978-7-115-16599-2/O1

定价: 59.00元

读者服务热线: (010)88593802 印装质量热线: (010)67129223

## 版 权 声 明

*An Introduction to Differentiable Manifolds and Riemannian Geometry, Revised Second Edition* by William M. Boothby, ISBN: 978-0-12-116051-7.

Copyright © 2003, 1986, 1975 by Elsevier. All rights reserved.

Authorized English language reprint edition published by the Proprietor.

ISBN: 978-981-259-951-3.

Copyright© 2007 by Elsevier (Singapore) Pte Ltd. All rights reserved.

**Elsevier (Singapore) Pte Ltd.**

3 Killiney Road

#08-01 Winsland House I

Singapore 239519

Tel : (65)6349-0200

Fax : (65)6733-1817

First Published 2007

2007年初版

Printed in China by POSTS & TELECOM PRESS under special arrangement with Elsevier (Singapore) Pte Ltd. This edition is authorized for sale in China only, excluding Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan. Unauthorized export of this edition is a violation of the Copyright Act. Violation of this Law is subject to Civil and Criminal Penalties.

本书英文影印版由Elsevier (Singapore) Pte Ltd. 授权人民邮电出版社在中华人民共和国（不包括香港特别行政区和台湾地区）出版发行。未经许可之出口，视为违反著作权法，将受法律之制裁。



*This book is dedicated with love and affection  
to my wife, Ruth,  
and to our sons,  
Daniel, Thomas, and Mark.*

## Preface

Apart from its own intrinsic interest a knowledge of differentiable manifolds is useful, and even essential, in a number of areas of mathematics and its applications. This is not too surprising, since differentiable manifolds are the underlying, if unacknowledged, objects of study in much of advanced calculus and analysis. Indeed, such topics as line and surface integrals, divergence and curl of vector fields, and Stokes's and Green's theorems find their most natural setting in manifold theory. But however natural the leap from calculus on domains of Euclidean space to calculus on manifolds may be to those who have made it, it is not at all easy for most students. It usually involves many weeks of concentrated work with very general concepts (whose importance is not clear until later) during which the relation to the already familiar ideas in calculus and linear algebra becomes lost—not irretrievably, but for all too long. Simple but nontrivial examples that illustrate the necessity for the high level of abstraction are not easy to present at this stage, and a realization of the power and utility of the methods must often be postponed for a dismayingly long time. This book was planned and written as a text for a two-semester course designed to overcome, or at least to minimize, some of these difficulties.

Although in overall content it necessarily overlaps various available excellent textbooks on manifold theory, there are differences in presentation and emphasis which make it particularly suitable as an introductory text. It is more elementary and less encyclopedic than many books on this subject. Special care has been taken to review and then to develop the connections with advanced calculus. In particular all of Chapter II is devoted to functions and mappings on open subsets of Euclidean space, including a careful exposition and proof of the inverse function theorem. Efforts are made throughout to introduce new ideas gradually and with as much attention to intuition as possible. This has led to a longer but more readable presentation of inherently difficult material. When manifolds are first defined an effort is made to have as many nontrivial examples as possible; for this reason Lie groups, especially matrix groups, and certain quotient manifolds

are introduced early and used throughout as examples. Many problems (more than 400) are included to develop intuition and computational skills. Further, there has been a conscious effort to avoid or at least to economize generality insofar as that is possible. Concepts are often introduced in a rather ad hoc way with only the generality needed and, if possible, only when they are actually needed for some specific purpose. This is particularly noticeable in the treatment of tensors—which is far from general—and in the brief introduction to vector bundles (more precisely to the tangent bundle).

Thus it is not claimed that this is a comprehensive book; the student will emerge with gaps in his knowledge of various subjects treated (e.g., Lie groups or Riemannian geometry). On the other hand it is expected that students will acquire strong motivation, computational skills, and a feeling for the subject that will make it easy for them to proceed to more advanced work in any of a number of areas using manifold theory: differential topology, Lie groups, symmetric and homogeneous spaces, harmonic analysis, dynamical systems, Morse theory, Riemann surfaces, and so on.

In nearly every stage results are included that illustrate the power of the new concepts. Chapter VI is especially noteworthy in this respect in that it includes complete proofs of Brouwer's fixed point theorem and of the nonexistence of nowhere-vanishing continuous vector fields on even dimensional spheres. In a similar vein the existence of a bi-invariant measure on compact Lie groups is demonstrated and applied to prove the complete reducibility of their linear representations. Then, in a later chapter, compact groups are used as simple examples of symmetric spaces, and their corresponding geometry is used to prove that every element lies on a one-parameter subgroup.

In the last two chapters, which deal with Riemannian geometry of abstract  $n$ -dimensional manifolds, the relation to the more easily visualized geometry of curves and surfaces in Euclidean space is carefully spelled out and is used to develop the general ideas for which such applications as the Hopf-Rinow theorem are given. Thus, by a selection of accessible but important applications, some truly nontrivial, unexpected (to the student) results are obtained from the abstract machinery so patiently constructed.

## ORGANIZATION AND PREREQUISITES

Briefly, the organization of the book is as follows. Chapter I is a very intuitive introduction and fixes some of the conventions and notations that are used. Chapter II is largely advanced calculus and may very well be omitted or skimmed by better prepared readers. In Chapter III, the basic concept of differentiable manifold is introduced along with mappings of manifolds and their properties; a fairly extensive discussion of examples is included. Chapter IV is particularly concerned with vectors and vector fields and with a careful exposition of the existence theorem for solutions of systems of ordinary differential equations and the related

one-parameter group action. In Chapter V covariant tensors and differential forms are treated in some detail and then used to develop a theory of integration on manifolds in Chapter VI. Numerous applications are given.

It would be possible to use Chapters II–VI as the basis of a one-semester course for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of differentiable manifolds without any Riemannian geometry. On the other hand, for students who already have some experience with manifolds, Chapters VII and VIII could serve as a brief introduction to Riemannian geometry. In these last two chapters, beginning from curves and surfaces in Euclidean space, the concept of Riemannian connection and covariant differentiation is carefully developed and used to give a fairly extensive discussion of geodesics—including the Hopf-Rinow theorem—and a shorter treatment of curvature. The natural (bi-invariant) geometry on compact Lie groups and Riemannian manifolds of constant curvature are both discussed in some detail as examples of the general theory. The discussion of the latter is based on a fairly complete treatment of covering spaces, discontinuous group action, and of the fundamental group given earlier in the book.

This text is appropriate for a two-semester course intended to lead the student from a reasonable mastery of advanced (multivariable) calculus and a rudimentary knowledge of general topology and linear algebra to a working knowledge of differentiable manifolds, including some facility with the basic tools of manifold theory: tensors, differential forms, Lie and covariant derivatives, multiple integrals, and so on.

The prerequisites are minimal: some knowledge of advanced (multivariable) calculus, a semester of linear algebra, and a some general topology. However, some mathematical maturity, that is, the ability to follow proofs and formal reasoning, is certainly needed.

## ABOUT THIS EDITION

Although the second edition contained some substantial improvements over the first edition, the revisions in this present edition are minor but worthwhile. I was afforded a chance to rethink and rework several proofs, add new problems, enlarge historical notes, and update references. I have also had the opportunity to correct a number of errors; most of them are minor but nevertheless irritating to the reader and sometimes misleading. I take this occasion to gratefully thank the many students and colleagues who have taken the trouble to call errors and improvements to my attention.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book, as do many of the books in this subject, owes much to the influence of S. S. Chern. For many years his University of Chicago notes, still an important reference (Chern [1]), were virtually the only systematic account of most of the topics in this text. Even more importantly his courses, lectures, published works,



and above all his personal encouragement have had an impressive influence on a whole generation of differential geometers, among whom this author had the good fortune to be included. Another source of inspiration to the author was the work of John Milnor. The manner in which he has made exciting fundamental research in differential topology and geometry available to specialist and nonspecialist alike through many careful expository works (written in a style that this author particularly admires) certainly deserves gratitude. No better material for further or supplemental reading to this text could be suggested than Milnor's two books [1] and [2].

For part of the time during which this book was being written, I benefitted from a visiting professorship at the University of Strasbourg, France, and was particularly grateful for the opportunity to work there, in an atmosphere so conducive to advancing in the task I had undertaken. I also wish to express once more my gratitude to the National Science Foundation for support at various times during which I have worked on this book.

I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the help given to me by my son, Thomas Boothby, by students and colleagues at Washington University, especially Humberto Alagia and Eduardo Cattani, and by Mrs. Virginia Hundley for her careful work preparing the manuscript. I am very appreciative of the detailed comments and errata furnished by Chung-Shing Chen, H. V. Fagundes, J. F. C. Velson, and A. H. Clifford. I am also profoundly grateful to the many students, colleagues, and friends, encountered in many places, who have said kind and encouraging things, and to those who have taken the trouble to write to me about this book. This is a reward for my efforts which is all the more gratifying for having been unanticipated. I hope that readers of the earlier printings and editions will find this revised second edition tidied up and improved and that new readers will find it helpful to them in learning an exciting and important field of mathematics.

William M. Boothby  
Washington University  
St. Louis, Missouri

# Contents

## I. Introduction to Manifolds

1. Preliminary Comments on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  1
2.  $\mathbf{R}^n$  and Euclidean Space 4
3. Topological Manifolds 6
4. Further Examples of Manifolds. Cutting and Pasting 11
5. Abstract Manifolds. Some Examples 14

## II. Functions of Several Variables and Mappings

1. Differentiability for Functions of Several Variables 20
2. Differentiability of Mappings and Jacobians 25
3. The Space of Tangent Vectors at a Point of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  29
4. Another Definition of  $T_a(\mathbf{R}^n)$  32
5. Vector Fields on Open Subsets of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  36
6. The Inverse Function Theorem 41
7. The Rank of a Mapping 46

## III. Differentiable Manifolds and Submanifolds

1. The Definition of a Differentiable Manifold 52
2. Further Examples 59
3. Differentiable Functions and Mappings 65
4. Rank of a Mapping, Immersions 68
5. Submanifolds 74
6. Lie Groups 80
7. The Action of a Lie Group on a Manifold. Transformation Groups 87
8. The Action of a Discrete Group on a Manifold 93
9. Covering Manifolds 98

## IV. Vector Fields on a Manifold

1. The Tangent Space at a Point of a Manifold 104
2. Vector Fields 113
3. One-Parameter and Local One-Parameter Groups Acting on a Manifold 119
4. The Existence Theorem for Ordinary Differential Equations 127
5. Some Examples of One-Parameter Groups Acting on a Manifold 135
6. One-Parameter Subgroups of Lie Groups 142
7. The Lie Algebra of Vector Fields on a Manifold 146
8. Frobenius's Theorem 153
9. Homogeneous Spaces 160

## V. Tensors and Tensor Fields on Manifolds

1. Tangent Covectors 171
  - Covectors on Manifolds 172
  - Covector Fields and Mappings 174
2. Bilinear Forms. The Riemannian Metric 177
3. Riemannian Manifolds as Metric Spaces 181
4. Partitions of Unity 186
  - Some Applications of the Partition of Unity 188
5. Tensor Fields 192
  - Tensors on a Vector Space 192
  - Tensor Fields 194
  - Mappings and Covariant Tensors 195
  - The Symmetrizing and Alternating Transformations 196
6. Multiplication of Tensors 199
  - Multiplication of Tensors on a Vector Space 199
  - Multiplication of Tensor Fields 201
  - Exterior Multiplication of Alternating Tensors 202
  - The Exterior Algebra on Manifolds 206
7. Orientation of Manifolds and the Volume Element 207
8. Exterior Differentiation 212
  - An Application to Frobenius's Theorem 216

## VI. Integration on Manifolds

1. Integration in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  Domains of Integration 223
  - Basic Properties of the Riemann Integral 224
2. A Generalization to Manifolds 229
  - Integration on Riemannian Manifolds 232
3. Integration on Lie Groups 237
4. Manifolds with Boundary 243
5. Stokes's Theorem for Manifolds 251
6. Homotopy of Mappings. The Fundamental Group 258
  - Homotopy of Paths and Loops. The Fundamental Group 259

7. Some Applications of Differential Forms. The de Rham Groups	265
The Homotopy Operator	268
8. Some Further Applications of de Rham Groups	272
The de Rham Groups of Lie Groups	276
9. Covering Spaces and Fundamental Group	280

## VII. Differentiation on Riemannian Manifolds

1. Differentiation of Vector Fields along Curves in $\mathbf{R}^n$	289
The Geometry of Space Curves	292
Curvature of Plane Curves	296
2. Differentiation of Vector Fields on Submanifolds of $\mathbf{R}^n$	298
Formulas for Covariant Derivatives	303
$\nabla_{x_p} Y$ and Differentiation of Vector Fields	305
3. Differentiation on Riemannian Manifolds	308
Constant Vector Fields and Parallel Displacement	314
4. Addenda to the Theory of Differentiation on a Manifold	316
The Curvature Tensor	316
The Riemannian Connection and Exterior Differential Forms	319
5. Geodesic Curves on Riemannian Manifolds	321
6. The Tangent Bundle and Exponential Mapping. Normal Coordinates	326
7. Some Further Properties of Geodesics	332
8. Symmetric Riemannian Manifolds	340
9. Some Examples	346

## VIII. Curvature

1. The Geometry of Surfaces in $E^3$	355
The Principal Curvatures at a Point of a Surface	359
2. The Gaussian and Mean Curvatures of a Surface	363
The Theorema Egregium of Gauss	366
3. Basic Properties of the Riemann Curvature Tensor	371
4. Curvature Forms and the Equations of Structure	378
5. Differentiation of Covariant Tensor Fields	384
6. Manifolds of Constant Curvature	391
Spaces of Positive Curvature	394
Spaces of Zero Curvature	396
Spaces of Constant Negative Curvature	397

REFERENCES	403
------------	-----

INDEX	411
-------	-----



# I INTRODUCTION TO MANIFOLDS

In this chapter, we establish some preliminary notations and give an intuitive, geometric discussion of a number of examples of manifolds—the primary objects of study throughout the book. Most of these examples are surfaces in Euclidean space; for these—together with curves on the plane and in space—were the original objects of study in classical differential geometry and are the source of much of the current theory.

The first two sections deal primarily with notational matters and the relation between Euclidean space, its model  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , and real vector spaces. In Section 3 a precise definition of topological manifolds is given, and in the remaining sections this concept is illustrated.

## 1 Preliminary Comments on $\mathbf{R}^n$

Let  $\mathbf{R}$  denote the real numbers and  $\mathbf{R}^n$  their  $n$ -fold Cartesian product

$$\overbrace{\mathbf{R} \times \cdots \times \mathbf{R}}^n,$$

the set of all ordered  $n$ -tuples  $(x^1, \dots, x^n)$  of real numbers. Individual  $n$ -tuples may be denoted at times by a single letter. Thus  $x = (x^1, \dots, x^n)$ ,  $a = (a^1, \dots, a^n)$ , and so on. We agree once and for all to use on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  its topology as a metric space

with the metric defined by

$$d(x, y) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (x^i - y^i)^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

The neighborhoods are then open balls  $B_\varepsilon^n(x)$ , or  $B_\varepsilon(x)$  or, equivalently, open cubes  $C_\varepsilon^n(x)$ , or  $C_\varepsilon(x)$  defined for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  as

$$B_\varepsilon(x) = \{y \in \mathbf{R}^n \mid d(x, y) < \varepsilon\},$$

and

$$C_\varepsilon(x) = \{y \in \mathbf{R}^n \mid |x^i - y^i| < \varepsilon, i = 1, \dots, n\},$$

a cube of side length  $2\varepsilon$  and center  $x$ , respectively. Note that  $\mathbf{R}^1 = \mathbf{R}$  and we define  $\mathbf{R}^0$  to be a single point.

Although we shall invariably consider  $\mathbf{R}^n$  with the topology defined by the metric, this space  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is used in several senses and we must usually decide from the context which one is intended. Sometimes  $\mathbf{R}^n$  means merely  $\mathbf{R}^n$  as *topological* space, sometimes  $\mathbf{R}^n$  denotes an  $n$ -dimensional vector space, and sometimes it is identified with Euclidean space. We will comment on this last identification in Section 2 and examine here the other meanings of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

We assume that the definition and basic theorems of vector spaces over  $\mathbf{R}$  are known to the reader. Among these is the theorem which states that any two vector spaces over  $\mathbf{R}$  which have the same finite dimension  $n$  are isomorphic. It is important to note that this isomorphism depends on *choices* of *bases* in the two spaces; there is in general no *natural* or *canonical* isomorphism independent of these choices. However, there does exist one important example of an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbf{R}$  which has a distinguished or canonical basis—a basis which is somehow given by the nature of the space itself. We refer to the vector space of  $n$ -tuples of real numbers with componentwise addition and scalar multiplication. This is, as a set at least, just  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ; should we wish on occasion to avoid confusion, then we will denote it by  $\mathbf{V}^n$  (and use boldface for its elements  $\mathbf{x}$  instead of  $x$ , and so forth). For this space the  $n$ -tuples  $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, \mathbf{e}_n = (0, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$  are a basis, known as the *natural* or *canonical* basis. We may at times suppose that the  $n$ -tuples are written as rows, that is,  $1 \times n$  matrices, and at other times as columns, that is,  $n \times 1$  matrices. This only becomes important should we wish to use matrix notation to simplify things a bit; for example, to describe linear mappings, equations, and so on.

Thus  $\mathbf{R}^n$  may denote a vector space of dimension  $n$  over  $\mathbf{R}$ . We sometimes mean even more by  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . An abstract  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbf{R}$  is called *Euclidean* if it has defined on it a positive definite inner product. In general there is no natural way to choose such an inner product, but in the case of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  or  $\mathbf{V}^n$ , again we have the natural inner product

$$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^n x^i y^i.$$

It is characterized by the fact that relative to this inner product the natural basis is orthonormal,  $(e_i, e_j) = \delta_{ij}$ .

Thus at times  $R^n$  is a Euclidean vector space, but one which has a built-in orthonormal basis and inner product. An abstract vector space, even if Euclidean, does not have any such preferred basis. The metric in  $R^n$  discussed at the beginning can be defined using the inner product on  $R^n$ . We define  $\|x\|$ , the *norm* of the vector  $x$ , by  $\|x\| = ((x, x))^{1/2}$ . Then we have

$$d(x, y) = \|x - y\|.$$

This notation is frequently useful even when we are dealing with  $R^n$  as a metric space and not using its vector space structure. Note, in particular, that  $\|x\| = d(x, 0)$ , the distance from the point  $x$  to the origin. In this equality  $x$  is a vector on the left-hand side, and  $x$  is the corresponding point on the right-hand side; an illustration of the way various interpretations of  $R^n$  can be mixed together.

### Exercises

1. Show that if  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then the mapping from  $V^n$  to  $V^m$  (with elements written as  $n \times 1$  and  $m \times 1$  matrices), which is defined by  $y = Ax$ , is continuous. Identify the images of the canonical basis of  $V^n$  as linear combinations of the canonical basis of  $V^m$ .
2. Find conditions for the mapping of Exercise 1 to be onto; to be one-to-one.
3. Show that if  $W$  is an  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean vector space, then there exists an isometry, that is, an isomorphism preserving the inner product, of  $W$  onto  $R^n$  interpreted as Euclidean vector space.
4. Show that if  $C^n$ , the space of  $n$ -tuples of complex numbers, may be placed in one-to-one correspondence with  $R^{2n}$ . Can this correspondence be a vector space isomorphism?
5. Exhibit an isomorphism between the vector space of  $m \times n$  matrices over  $R$  and the vector space  $R^{mn}$ . Show that the map  $X \rightarrow AX$ , where  $A$  is a fixed  $m \times m$  matrix and  $X$  is an arbitrary  $m \times n$  matrix (over  $R$ ), is continuous in the topology derived from  $R^{mn}$ .
6. Show that  $\|x\|$  has the following properties:
  - (a)  $\|x \pm y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$ ;
  - (b)  $|\|x\| - \|y\|| \leq \|x - y\|$ ;
  - (c)  $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha| \|x\|$ ,  $\alpha \in R$ ; and
  - (d) explain how (a) is related to the triangle inequality of  $d(x, y)$ .
7. Prove that every Euclidean vector space  $V$  has an orthonormal basis. Construct your proof in such a way that if  $W$  is a given subspace of  $V$ ,  $\dim W = r$ , then the first  $r$  vectors of the basis of  $V$  are a basis of  $W$ .
8. Show that an isometry of a Euclidean vector space onto itself is represented by an orthogonal matrix relative to any orthonormal basis.

## 2 $\mathbf{R}^n$ and Euclidean Space

Another role which  $\mathbf{R}^n$  plays is that of a model for  $n$ -dimensional *Euclidean* space  $E^n$ , in the sense of Euclidean geometry. In fact many texts simply refer to  $\mathbf{R}^n$  with the metric  $d(x, y)$  as Euclidean space. This identification is misleading in the same sense that it would be misleading to identify *all*  $n$ -dimensional vector spaces with  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ; moreover unless clearly understood, it is an identification that can hamper clarification of the concept of manifold and the role of coordinates. Certainly Euclid and the geometers before the seventeenth century did not think of the Euclidean plane or three-dimensional space—which we denote by  $E^2$  and  $E^3$ —as pairs or triples of real numbers. In fact they were defined axiomatically beginning with undefined objects such as points and lines together with a list of their properties—the axioms—from which the theorems of geometry were then deduced. This is the path which we all follow in learning the basic ideas of Euclidean plane and solid geometry, about which most of us know quite a bit before studying analytic or coordinate geometry at all. The identification of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  and  $E^n$  came about after the invention of analytic geometry by Fermat and Descartes and was eagerly seized upon since it is very tricky and difficult to give a suitable definition of Euclidean space, of any dimension, in the spirit of Euclid, that is, by giving axioms for (abstract) Euclidean space as one does for abstract vector spaces. This difficulty was certainly recognized for a very long time, and has interested many great mathematicians. It led in part to the discovery of non-Euclidean geometries and thus to manifolds. A careful axiomatic definition of Euclidean space is given by Hilbert [1]. Since our use of Euclidean geometry is mainly to aid our intuition, we shall be content with assuming that the reader “knows” this geometry from high school.

Consider the Euclidean plane  $E^2$  as studied in high school geometry; definitions are made, theorems proved, and so on, *without* coordinates. One later introduces coordinates using the notions of length and perpendicularity in choosing two mutually perpendicular “number axes” which are used to define a one-to-one mapping of  $E^2$  onto  $\mathbf{R}^2$  by  $p \rightarrow (x(p), y(p))$ , the coordinates of  $p \in E^2$ . This mapping is (by design) an isometry, preserving distances of points of  $E^2$  and their images in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . Finally one obtains further correspondences of essential geometric elements, for example, lines of  $E^2$  with subsets of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  consisting of the solutions of linear equations. Thus we carry each geometric object to a corresponding one in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . It is the existence of such coordinate mappings which make the identification of  $E^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}^2$  possible. But caution! An *arbitrary choice* of coordinates is involved, there is no *natural, geometrically determined* way to identify the two spaces. Thus, at best, we can say that  $\mathbf{R}^2$  may be identified with  $E^2$  *plus a coordinate system*. Even then we need to define in  $\mathbf{R}^2$  the notions of line, angle of lines, and other attributes of the Euclidean plane before thinking of it as Euclidean space. Thus, with qualifications, we may identify  $E^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}^2$  or  $E^n$  and  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , especially remembering that they carry a choice of rectangular coordinates.



We conclude with a brief indication of why we might not always wish to make the identification, that is, to use the analytic geometry approach to the study of a geometry. Whenever  $E^n$  and  $R^n$  are identified it involves the choice of a coordinate system, as we have seen. It then becomes difficult at times to distinguish underlying geometric properties from those which depend on the choice of coordinates. An example: Having identified  $E^2$  and  $R^2$  and lines with the graphs of linear equations, for instance,

$$L = \{(x, y) \mid y = mx + b\},$$

we define the *slope*  $m$  and the *y-intercept*  $b$ . Neither has geometric meaning; they depend on the choice of coordinates. However, given two such lines of slope  $m_1, m_2$ , the expression  $(m_2 - m_1)/(1 + m_1 m_2)$  does have geometric meaning. This can be demonstrated by directly checking independence of the choice of coordinates—a tedious process—or determining that its value is the tangent of the angle between the lines, a concept which is independent of coordinates! It should be clear that it can be difficult to do geometry, even in the simplest case of Euclidean geometry, working with coordinates alone, that is, with the model  $R^n$ . We need to develop both the coordinate method and the coordinate-free method of approach. Thus we shall often seek ways of looking at manifolds and their geometry which do not involve coordinates, but will use coordinates as a useful computational device (and more) when necessary.

Being aware now of what is involved, we shall usually refer to  $R^n$  as Euclidean space and make the identification. This is especially true when we are interested only in questions involving topology—as in the next section—or differentiability.

### Exercises

1. Using standard equations for change of Cartesian coordinates, verify that  $(m_2 - m_1)/(1 + m_1 m_2)$  is independent of the choice of coordinates.
2. Similarly, show that  $((x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2)^{1/2}$  is a function of points  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$  and  $P_2(x_2, y_2)$  which does not depend on the choice of coordinates.
3. How do we describe the subset of  $R^n$  which corresponds to a segment  $\overline{pq}$  in  $E^n$ ? to a line? to a 2-plane not through the origin?

If we wish to prove the theorems of Euclidean geometry by analytical geometry methods, we need to define the notion of congruence. We say that two figures are *congruent* if there is a *rigid motion* of the space, that is, an isometry or distance-preserving transformation, which carries one figure to the other.

4. Identifying  $E^2$  with  $R^2$ , describe analytically the rigid motions of  $R^2$ . Show that they form a group.