

TURING

图灵原版数学·统计学系列 28

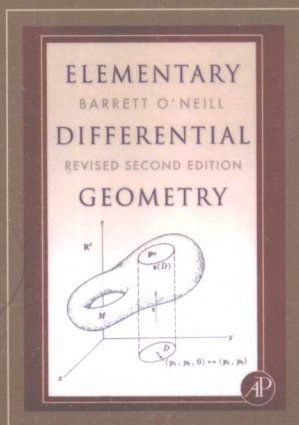


Elementary Differential Geometry

微分几何基础

(英文版·第2版修订版)

[美] Barrett O'Neill 著



人民邮电出版社
POSTS & TELECOM PRESS

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

微分几何基础: 第2版: 修订版 = Elementary Differential Geometry, Revised Second Edition: 英文/ (美) 尼尔 (Neill, B.) 著. —北京: 人民邮电出版社, 2009.2
(图灵原版数学·统计学系列)
ISBN 978-7-115-19537-1

I. 微… II. 尼… III. 微分几何—教材—英文
IV. O186.1

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2008) 第203457号

内 容 提 要

本书介绍曲线和曲面几何的入门知识, 主要内容包括欧氏空间上的积分、场、欧氏几何、曲面积分、形状算子、曲面几何、黎曼几何、曲面上的球面结构等. 修订版扩展了一些主题, 更加强调拓扑性质、测地线的性质、向量场的奇异性等. 更为重要的是, 修订版增加了计算机建模的内容, 提供了Mathematica和Maple程序. 此外, 还增加了相应的计算机习题, 补充了奇数号码习题的答案, 更便于教学.

本书适合作为高等院校本科生相关课程的教材, 也适合作为相关专业研究生和科研人员的参考书.

图灵原版数学·统计学系列

微分几何基础 (英文版·第2版修订版)

-
- ◆ 著 [美] Barrett O'Neill
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
 - ◆ 开本: 700 × 1000 1/16
印张: 32
字数: 512千字 2009年2月第1版
印数: 1-2 000册 2009年2月北京第1次印刷
著作权合同登记号 图字: 01-2008-5822号
ISBN 978-7-115-19537-1/O1
-

定价: 69.00元

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

反盗版热线: (010) 67171154



Preface to the Revised Second Edition



This book is an elementary account of the geometry of curves and surfaces. It is written for students who have completed standard courses in calculus and linear algebra, and its aim is to introduce some of the main ideas of differential geometry.

The language of the book is established in Chapter 1 by a review of the core content of differential calculus, emphasizing linearity. Chapter 2 describes the method of *moving frames*, which is introduced, as in elementary calculus, to study curves in space. (This method turns out to apply with equal efficiency to surfaces.) Chapter 3 investigates the rigid motions of space, in terms of which congruence of curves and surfaces is defined in the same way as congruence of triangles in the plane.

Chapter 4 requires special comment. One weakness of classical differential geometry is its lack of any adequate definition of *surface*. In this chapter we decide just what a surface is, and show that every surface has a differential and integral calculus of its own, strictly analogous to the familiar calculus of the plane. This exposition provides an introduction to the notion of *differentiable manifold*, which is the foundation for those branches of mathematics and its applications that are based on the calculus.

The next two chapters are devoted to the geometry of surfaces in 3-space. Chapter 5 measures the *shape* of a surface and derives basic geometric invariants, notably Gaussian curvature. Intuitive and computational aspects are stressed to give geometrical meaning to the theory in Chapter 6.

In the final two chapters, although our methods are unchanged, there is a radical shift of viewpoint. Roughly speaking, we study the geometry of a surface *as seen by its inhabitants*, with no assumption that the surface can be found in ordinary three-dimensional space. Chapter 7 is dominated by *curvature* and culminates in the Gauss-Bonnet theorem and its geometric and topological consequences. In particular, we use the Gauss-Bonnet theorem to

prove the Poincaré-Hopf theorem, which relates the singularities of a vector field on M to the topology of M .

Chapter 8 studies the local and global properties of geodesics. Full development of the global properties requires the notion of covering surface. With it, we can give a comprehensive survey of the surfaces of constant Gaussian curvature and prove the theorems of Bonnet and Hadamard on, respectively, positive and nonnegative curvature.

No branch of mathematics makes a more direct appeal to the intuition than geometry. I have sought to emphasize this by a large number of illustrations that form an integral part of the text.

Each chapter of the book is divided into sections, and in each section a single sequence of numbers designates collectively the theorems, lemmas, examples, and so on. Each section ends with a set of exercises; these range from routine checks of comprehension to moderately challenging problems.

In this revision, the structure of the text, including the numbering of its contents, remains the same, but there are many changes around this framework. The most significant are, first, correction of all known errors; second, a better way of referencing exercises (the most common reference); third, general improvement of the exercises. These improvements include deletion of a few unreasonably difficult exercises, simplification of others, and fuller answers to odd-numbered ones.

In teaching from earlier versions of this book, I have usually covered the background material in Chapter 1 rather rapidly and not devoted any classroom time to Chapter 3. A short course in the geometry of curves and surfaces in 3-space might consist of Chapter 2 (omit Sec. 8), Chapter 4 (omit Sec. 8), Chapter 5, Chapter 6 (covering Secs. 6–9 lightly), and a leap to Section 6 of Chapter 7: the Gauss-Bonnet theorem. This is essentially the content of a traditional undergraduate course in differential geometry, with clarification of the notions of surface and mapping.

Such a course, however, neglects the shift of viewpoint mentioned earlier, in which the geometric concept of surface evolved from a *shape* in 3-space to an independent entity—a two-dimensional *Riemannian manifold*.

This development is important from a practical viewpoint since it makes surface theory applicable throughout the range of scientific applications where 2-parameter objects appear that meet the requisite conditions—for example, in the four-dimensional manifolds of general relativity.

Such a surface is logically simpler than a surface in 3-space since it is constructed (at the start of Chapter 7) by discarding effects of Euclidean space. However, readers can neglect this transition and—as suggested for the Gauss-Bonnet theorem—proceed directly to most of the topics considered in the final two chapters, for example, properties of geodesics (length-minimization

and completeness), singularities of vector fields, and the theorems of Bonnet and Hadamard.

For readers with access to a computer containing either the *Mathematica* or *Maple* computation system, I have included some forty computer exercises. These offer an opportunity to amplify the text in various ways.

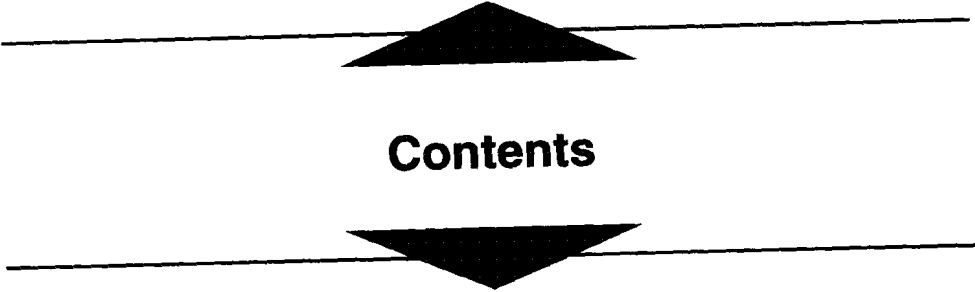
Previous computer experience is not required. The Appendix contains a summary of the syntaxes of the most recent versions of *Mathematica* and *Maple*, together with a list of explicit computer commands covering the basic geometry of curves and surfaces. Further commands appear in the answers to exercises.

It is important to go, step by step, through the hand calculation of the Gaussian curvature of a parametrized surface, but once this is understood, repetition becomes tedious. A surface in $\mathbf{R}^3$ given only by a formula is seldom easy to sketch. But using computer commands, a picture of a surface can be drawn and its curvature computed, often in no more than a few seconds. Analogous remarks hold for space curves.

Among other applications appearing in the exercises, the most valuable, since unreachable for humans, is the numerical solution of differential equations—and the plotting of these solutions.

This book would not have been possible without generous contributions by Allen B. Altman and Joseph E. Borzellino.

Barrett O'Neill



Contents

1. Calculus on Euclidean Space

1.1. Euclidean Space	3
1.2. Tangent Vectors	6
1.3. Directional Derivatives	11
1.4. Curves in $\mathbf{R}^3$	16
1.5. 1-Forms	23
1.6. Differential Forms	28
1.7. Mappings	34
1.8. Summary	41

2. Frame Fields

2.1. Dot Product	43
2.2. Curves	52
2.3. The Frenet Formulas	58
2.4. Arbitrary-Speed Curves	69
2.5. Covariant Derivatives	81
2.6. Frame Fields	84
2.7. Connection Forms	88
2.8. The Structural Equations	94
2.9. Summary	99

3. Euclidean Geometry

3.1. Isometries of $\mathbf{R}^3$	100
3.2. The Tangent Map of an Isometry	107
3.3. Orientation	110
3.4. Euclidean Geometry	116
3.5. Congruence of Curves	121
3.6. Summary	128

4. Calculus on a Surface

4.1. Surfaces in $\mathbf{R}^3$	130
4.2. Patch Computations	139
4.3. Differentiable Functions and Tangent Vectors	149
4.4. Differential Forms on a Surface	158
4.5. Mappings of Surfaces	166
4.6. Integration of Forms	174
4.7. Topological Properties of Surfaces	184
4.8. Manifolds	193
4.9. Summary	201

5. Shape Operators

5.1. The Shape Operator of $M \subset \mathbf{R}^3$	202
5.2. Normal Curvature	209
5.3. Gaussian Curvature	216
5.4. Computational Techniques	224
5.5. The Implicit Case	235
5.6. Special Curves in a Surface	240
5.7. Surfaces of Revolution	252
5.8. Summary	262

6. Geometry of Surfaces in $\mathbf{R}^3$

6.1. The Fundamental Equations	263
6.2. Form Computations	269
6.3. Some Global Theorems	273
6.4. Isometries and Local Isometries	281
6.5. Intrinsic Geometry of Surfaces in $\mathbf{R}^3$	289
6.6. Orthogonal Coordinates	294
6.7. Integration and Orientation	297
6.8. Total Curvature	304
6.9. Congruence of Surfaces	314
6.10. Summary	319

7. Riemannian Geometry

7.1. Geometric Surfaces	321
7.2. Gaussian Curvature	329
7.3. Covariant Derivative	337
7.4. Geodesics	346
7.5. Clairaut Parametrizations	353
7.6. The Gauss-Bonnet Theorem	364
7.7. Applications of Gauss-Bonnet	376
7.8. Summary	386

8. Global Structure of Surfaces

8.1. Length-Minimizing Properties of Geodesics	388
8.2. Complete Surfaces	400
8.3. Curvature and Conjugate Points	405
8.4. Covering Surfaces	416
8.5. Mappings That Preserve Inner Products	425
8.6. Surfaces of Constant Curvature	433
8.7. Theorems of Bonnet and Hadamard	442
8.8. Summary	449

Appendix: Computer Formulas	451
------------------------------------	-----

Bibliography	467
---------------------	-----

Answers to Odd-Numbered Exercises	468
--	-----

Index	495
--------------	-----



Introduction



This book presupposes a reasonable knowledge of elementary calculus and linear algebra. It is a working knowledge of the fundamentals that is actually required. The reader will, for example, frequently be called upon to *use* the chain rule for differentiation, but its proof need not concern us.

Calculus deals mostly with real-valued functions of one or more variables, linear algebra with functions (linear transformations) from one vector space to another. We shall need functions of these and other types, so we give here general definitions that cover all types.

A *set* S is a collection of objects that are called the *elements* of S . A set A is a *subset* of S provided each element of A is also an element of S .

A *function* f from a set D to a set R is a rule that assigns to each element x of D a unique element $f(x)$ of R . The element $f(x)$ is called the *value* of f at x . The set D is called the *domain* of f ; the set R is sometimes called the *range* of f . If we wish to emphasize the domain and range of a function f , the notation $f: D \rightarrow R$ is used. Note that the function is denoted by a single letter, say f , while $f(x)$ is merely a value of f .

Many different terms are used for functions—mappings, transformations, correspondences, operators, and so on. A function can be described in various ways, the simplest case being an explicit formula such as

$$f(x) = 3x^2 + 1,$$

which we may also write as $x \rightarrow 3x^2 + 1$.

If both f_1 and f_2 are functions from D to R , then $f_1 = f_2$ means that $f_1(x) = f_2(x)$ for all x in D . This is not a definition, but a logical consequence of the definition of *function*.

Let $f: D \rightarrow R$ and $g: E \rightarrow S$ be functions. In general, the *image* of f is the subset of R consisting of all elements of the form $f(x)$; it is usually denoted by $f(D)$. If this image happens to be a subset of the domain E of g ,

it is possible to combine these two functions to get the *composite function* $g(f): D \rightarrow S$. By definition, $g(f)$ is the function whose value at each element x of D is the element $g(f(x))$ of S .

If $f: D \rightarrow R$ is a function and A is a subset of D , then the *restriction* of f to A is the function $f|A: A \rightarrow R$ defined by the same rule as f , but applied only to elements of A . This seems a rather minor change, but the function $f|A$ may have properties quite different from f itself.

Here are two vital properties that a function may possess. A function $f: D \rightarrow R$ is *one-to-one* provided that if x and y are any elements of D such that $x \neq y$, then $f(x) \neq f(y)$. A function $f: D \rightarrow R$ is *onto* (or *carries D onto R*) provided that for every element y of R there is at least one element x of D such that $f(x) = y$. In short, the image of f is the entire set R . For example, consider the following functions, each of which has the real numbers as both domain and range:

- (1) The function $x \rightarrow x^3$ is both one-to-one and onto.
- (2) The exponential function $x \rightarrow e^x$ is one-to-one, but not onto.
- (3) The function $x \rightarrow x^3 + x^2$ is onto, but not one-to-one.
- (4) The sine function $x \rightarrow \sin x$ is neither one-to-one nor onto.

If a function $f: D \rightarrow R$ is both one-to-one and onto, then for each element y of R there is one and only one element x such that $f(x) = y$. By defining $f^{-1}(y) = x$ for all x and y so related, we obtain a function $f^{-1}: R \rightarrow D$ called the *inverse* of f . Note that the function f^{-1} is also one-to-one and onto, and that *its* inverse function is the original function f .

Here is a short list of the main notations used throughout the book, in order of their appearance in Chapter 1:

$\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}$	points	(Section 1.1)
f, g	real-valued functions	(Section 1.1)
$\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}$	tangent vectors	(Section 1.2)
V, W	vector fields	(Section 1.2)
α, β	curves	(Section 1.4)
ϕ, ψ	differential forms	(Section 1.5)
F, G	mappings	(Section 1.7)

In Chapter 1 we define these concepts for Euclidean 3-space. (Extension to arbitrary dimensions is virtually automatic.) In Chapter 4 we show how these concepts can be adapted to a surface.

A few references are given to the brief bibliography at the end of the book; these are indicated by initials in square brackets.



Chapter 1

Calculus on Euclidean Space



As mentioned in the Preface, the purpose of this initial chapter is to establish the mathematical language used throughout the book. Much of what we do is simply a review of that part of elementary calculus dealing with differentiation of functions of three variables and with curves in space. Our definitions have been formulated so that they will apply smoothly to the later study of surfaces.

1.1 Euclidean Space

Three-dimensional space is often used in mathematics without being formally defined. Looking at the corner of a room, one can picture the familiar process by which rectangular coordinate axes are introduced and three numbers are measured to describe the position of each point. A precise definition that realizes this intuitive picture may be obtained by this device: instead of saying that three numbers *describe the position* of a point, we define them to *be* a point.

1.1 Definition *Euclidean 3-space* $\mathbf{R}^3$ is the set of all ordered triples of real numbers. Such a triple $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$ is called a *point* of $\mathbf{R}^3$.

In linear algebra, it is shown that $\mathbf{R}^3$ is, in a natural way, a vector space over the real numbers. In fact, if $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$ and $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, q_3)$ are points of $\mathbf{R}^3$, their *sum* is the point

$$\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q} = (p_1 + q_1, p_2 + q_2, p_3 + q_3).$$

The *scalar multiple* of a point $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$ by a number a is the point

$$a\mathbf{p} = (ap_1, ap_2, ap_3).$$

It is easy to check that these two operations satisfy the axioms for a vector space. The point $\mathbf{0} = (0, 0, 0)$ is called the *origin* of $\mathbf{R}^3$.

Differential calculus deals with another aspect of $\mathbf{R}^3$ starting with the notion of differentiable real-valued functions on $\mathbf{R}^3$. We recall some fundamentals.

1.2 Definition Let x , y , and z be the real-valued functions on $\mathbf{R}^3$ such that for each point $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$

$$x(\mathbf{p}) = p_1, \quad y(\mathbf{p}) = p_2, \quad z(\mathbf{p}) = p_3.$$

These functions x , y , z are called the *natural coordinate functions* of $\mathbf{R}^3$. We shall also use index notation for these functions, writing

$$x_1 = x, \quad x_2 = y, \quad x_3 = z.$$

Thus the value of the function x_i on a point $\mathbf{p}$ is the number p_i , and so we have the identity $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3) = (x_1(\mathbf{p}), x_2(\mathbf{p}), x_3(\mathbf{p}))$ for each point $\mathbf{p}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$. Elementary calculus does not always make a sharp distinction between the *numbers* p_1, p_2, p_3 and the *functions* x_1, x_2, x_3 . Indeed the analogous distinction on the real line may seem pedantic, but for higher-dimensional spaces such as $\mathbf{R}^3$, its absence leads to serious ambiguities. (Essentially the same distinction is being made when we denote a function on $\mathbf{R}^3$ by a single letter f , reserving $f(\mathbf{p})$ for its value at the point $\mathbf{p}$.)

We assume that the reader is familiar with partial differentiation and its basic properties, in particular the chain rule for differentiation of a composite function. We shall work mostly with first-order partial derivatives $\partial f/\partial x$, $\partial f/\partial y$, $\partial f/\partial z$ and second-order partial derivatives $\partial^2 f/\partial x^2$, $\partial^2 f/\partial x \partial y$, $\dots$. In a few situations, third- and even fourth-order derivatives may occur, but to avoid worrying about exactly how many derivatives we can take in any given context, we establish the following definition.

1.3 Definition A real-valued function f on $\mathbf{R}^3$ is *differentiable* (or *infinitely differentiable*, or *smooth*, or of *class* C^∞) provided all partial derivatives of f , of all orders, exist and are continuous.

Differentiable real-valued functions f and g may be added and multiplied in a familiar way to yield functions that are again differentiable and real-

valued. We simply add and multiply their values at each point—the formulas read

$$(f + g)(\mathbf{p}) = f(\mathbf{p}) + g(\mathbf{p}), \quad (fg)(\mathbf{p}) = f(\mathbf{p})g(\mathbf{p}).$$

The phrase “differentiable real-valued function” is unpleasantly long. Hence we make the convention that *unless the context indicates otherwise*, “function” shall mean “real-valued function,” and (unless the issue is explicitly raised) the functions we deal with will be assumed to be differentiable. We do not intend to overwork this convention; for the sake of emphasis the words “differentiable” and “real-valued” will still appear fairly frequently.

Differentiation is always a *local* operation: To compute the value of the function $\partial f / \partial x$ at a point $\mathbf{p}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$, it is sufficient to know the values of f at all points $\mathbf{q}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$ that are sufficiently near $\mathbf{p}$. Thus, Definition 1.3 is unduly restrictive; the domain of f need not be the whole of $\mathbf{R}^3$, but need only be an *open set* of $\mathbf{R}^3$. By an *open set* $\mathcal{O}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$ we mean a subset of $\mathbf{R}^3$ such that if a point $\mathbf{p}$ is in $\mathcal{O}$, then so is every other point of $\mathbf{R}^3$ that is sufficiently near $\mathbf{p}$. (A more precise definition is given in Chapter 2.) For example, the set of all points $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, p_3)$ in $\mathbf{R}^3$ such that $p_1 > 0$ is an open set, and the function $yz \log x$ defined on this set is certainly differentiable, even though its domain is not the whole of $\mathbf{R}^3$. Generally speaking, the results in this chapter remain valid if $\mathbf{R}^3$ is replaced by an arbitrary open set $\mathcal{O}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$.

We are dealing with *three-dimensional* Euclidean space only because this is the dimension we use most often in later work. It would be just as easy to work with *Euclidean n -space* $\mathbf{R}^n$, for which the points are n -tuples $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$ and which has n natural coordinate functions $x_1, \dots, x_n$. All the results in this chapter are valid for Euclidean spaces of arbitrary dimensions, although we shall rarely take advantage of this except in the case of the *Euclidean plane* $\mathbf{R}^2$. In particular, the results are valid for the *real line* $\mathbf{R}^1 = \mathbf{R}$. Many of the concepts introduced are designed to deal with higher dimensions, however, and are thus apt to be overelaborate when reduced to dimension 1.

Exercises

1. Let $f = x^2y$ and $g = y \sin z$ be functions on $\mathbf{R}^3$. Express the following functions in terms of x, y, z :

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) fg^2 . | (b) $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} g + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} f$. |
| (c) $\frac{\partial^2(fg)}{\partial y \partial z}$. | (d) $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\sin f)$. |

2. Find the value of the function $f = x^2y - y^2z$ at each point:

- (a) $(1, 1, 1)$. (b) $(3, -1, \frac{1}{2})$.
 (c) $(a, 1, 1 - a)$. (d) (t, t^2, t^3) .

3. Express $\partial f / \partial x$ in terms of x , y , and z if

- (a) $f = x \sin(xy) + y \cos(xz)$.
 (b) $f = \sin g$, $g = e^h$, $h = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$.

4. If g_1, g_2, g_3 , and h are real-valued functions on $\mathbf{R}^3$, then

$$f = h(g_1, g_2, g_3)$$

is the function such that

$$f(\mathbf{p}) = h(g_1(\mathbf{p}), g_2(\mathbf{p}), g_3(\mathbf{p})) \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{p}.\dagger$$

Express $\partial f / \partial x$ in terms of x , y , and z , if $h = x^2 - yz$ and

- (a) $f = h(x + y, y^2, x + z)$. (b) $f = h(e^z, e^{x+y}, e^x)$.
 (c) $f = h(x, -x, x)$.

1.2 Tangent Vectors

Intuitively, a vector in $\mathbf{R}^3$ is an oriented line segment, or “arrow.” Vectors are used widely in physics and engineering to describe forces, velocities, angular momenta, and many other concepts. To obtain a definition that is both practical and precise, we shall describe an “arrow” in $\mathbf{R}^3$ by giving its starting point $\mathbf{p}$ and the change, or vector $\mathbf{v}$, necessary to reach its end point $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{v}$. Strictly speaking, $\mathbf{v}$ is just a point of $\mathbf{R}^3$.

2.1 Definition† A *tangent vector* $\mathbf{v}_p$ to $\mathbf{R}^3$ consists of two points of $\mathbf{R}^3$: its *vector part* $\mathbf{v}$ and its *point of application* $\mathbf{p}$.

We shall always picture $\mathbf{v}_p$ as *the arrow from the point* $\mathbf{p}$ *to the point* $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{v}$. For example, if $\mathbf{p} = (1, 1, 3)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (2, 3, 2)$, then $\mathbf{v}_p$ runs from $(1, 1, 3)$ to $(3, 4, 5)$ as in Fig. 1.1.

We emphasize that tangent vectors are equal, $\mathbf{v}_p = \mathbf{w}_q$, if and only if they have the same vector part, $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w}$, and the same point of application, $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{q}$.

†A consequence is the identity $f = f(x, y, z)$.

‡The term “tangent” in this definition will acquire a more direct geometric meaning in Chapter 4.

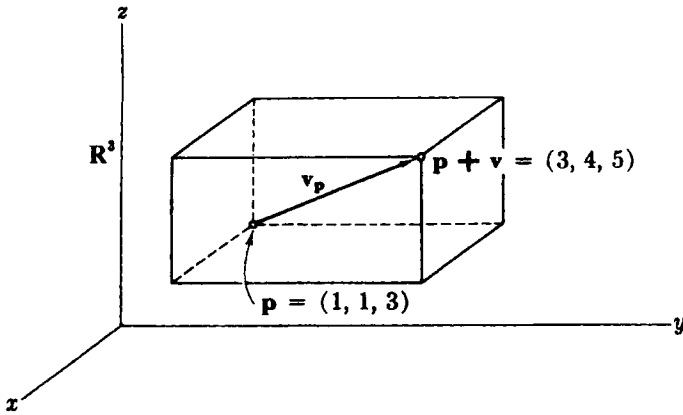


FIG. 1.1

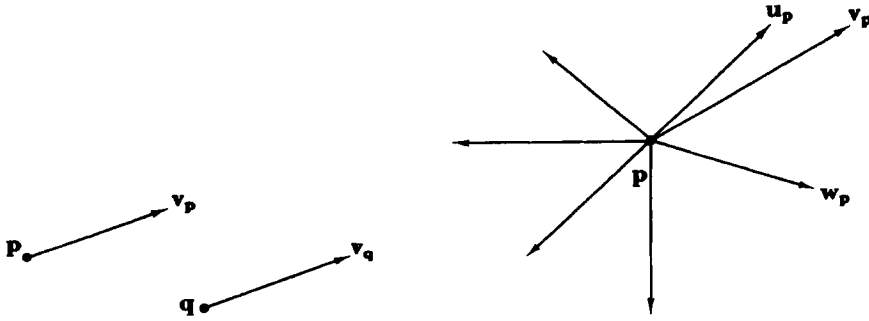


FIG. 1.2

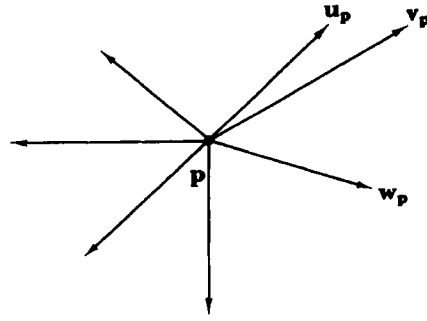


FIG. 1.3

Tangent vectors v_p and v_q with the same vector part, but different points of application, are said to be *parallel* (Fig. 1.2). It is essential to recognize that v_p and v_q are different tangent vectors if $p \neq q$. In physics the concept of moment of a force shows this clearly enough: The same force v applied at different points p and q of a rigid body can produce quite different rotational effects.

2.2 Definition Let p be a point of $\mathbf{R}^3$. The set $T_p(\mathbf{R}^3)$ consisting of all tangent vectors that have p as point of application is called the *tangent space* of $\mathbf{R}^3$ at p (Fig. 1.3).

We emphasize that $\mathbf{R}^3$ has a different tangent space at each and every one of its points.

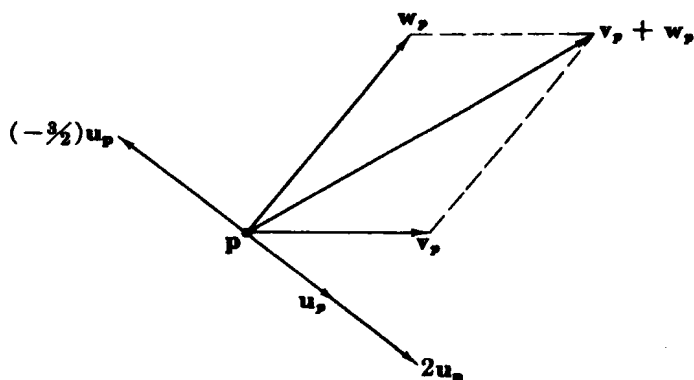


FIG. 1.4

Since all the tangent vectors in a given tangent space have the same point of application, we can borrow the vector addition and scalar multiplication of $\mathbf{R}^3$ to turn $T_p(\mathbf{R}^3)$ into a vector space. Explicitly, we define $\mathbf{v}_p + \mathbf{w}_p$ to be $(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})_p$, and if c is a number we define $c(\mathbf{v}_p)$ to be $(c\mathbf{v})_p$. This is just the usual “parallelogram law” for addition of vectors, and scalar multiplication by c merely stretches a tangent vector by the factor c —reversing its direction if $c < 0$ (Fig. 1.4).

These operations on the tangent space $T_p(\mathbf{R}^3)$ make it a vector space isomorphic to $\mathbf{R}^3$ itself. Indeed, it follows immediately from the definitions above that for a fixed point $\mathbf{p}$, the function $\mathbf{v} \rightarrow \mathbf{v}_p$ is a linear isomorphism from $\mathbf{R}^3$ to $T_p(\mathbf{R}^3)$ —that is, a linear transformation that is one-to-one and onto.

A standard concept in physics and engineering is that of a force field. The gravitational force field of the earth, for example, assigns to each point of space a force (vector) directed at the center of the earth.

2.3 Definition A *vector field* V on $\mathbf{R}^3$ is a function that assigns to each point $\mathbf{p}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$ a tangent vector $V(\mathbf{p})$ to $\mathbf{R}^3$ at $\mathbf{p}$.

Roughly speaking, a vector field is just a big collection of arrows, one at each point of $\mathbf{R}^3$.

There is a natural algebra of vector fields. To describe it, we first reexamine the familiar notion of addition of real-valued functions f and g . It is possible to add f and g because it is possible to add their values at each point. The same is true of vector fields V and W . At each point $\mathbf{p}$, the values $V(\mathbf{p})$ and $W(\mathbf{p})$ are in the same vector space—the tangent space $T_p(\mathbf{R}^3)$ —hence we can add $V(\mathbf{p})$ and $W(\mathbf{p})$. Consequently, we can add V and W by adding their

values at each point. The formula for this addition is thus the same as for addition of functions,

$$(V + W)(\mathbf{p}) = V(\mathbf{p}) + W(\mathbf{p}).$$

This scheme occurs over and over again. We shall call it the *pointwise principle*: If a certain operation can be performed on the values of two functions at each point, then that operation can be extended to the functions themselves; simply apply it to their values at each point.

For example, we invoke the pointwise principle to extend the operation of *scalar multiplication* (on the tangent spaces of $\mathbf{R}^3$). If f is a real-valued function on $\mathbf{R}^3$ and V is a vector field on $\mathbf{R}^3$, then fV is defined to be the vector field on $\mathbf{R}^3$ such that

$$(fV)(\mathbf{p}) = f(\mathbf{p})V(\mathbf{p}) \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{p}.$$

Our aim now is to determine in a concrete way just what vector fields look like. For this purpose we introduce three special vector fields that will serve as a “basis” for all vector fields.

2.4 Definition Let U_1 , U_2 , and U_3 be the vector fields on $\mathbf{R}^3$ such that

$$U_1(\mathbf{p}) = (1, 0, 0)_p$$

$$U_2(\mathbf{p}) = (0, 1, 0)_p$$

$$U_3(\mathbf{p}) = (0, 0, 1)_p$$

for each point $\mathbf{p}$ of $\mathbf{R}^3$ (Fig. 1.5). We call U_1 , U_2 , U_3 —collectively—the *natural frame field* on $\mathbf{R}^3$.

Thus, U_i ($i = 1, 2, 3$) is the unit vector field in the positive x_i direction.

2.5 Lemma If V is a vector field on $\mathbf{R}^3$, there are three uniquely determined real-valued functions, v_1 , v_2 , v_3 on $\mathbf{R}^3$ such that

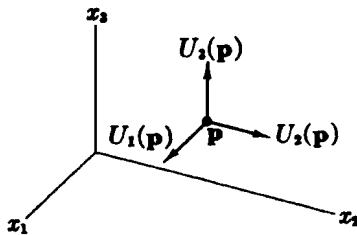


FIG. 1.5