

**MATH11007 SHEET 20: LAGRANGE MULTIPLIERS,  
DIFFERENTIAL FORMS**

- (1) Use the method of Lagrange multipliers to find the stationary points of the function  $f(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$  subject to the constraint  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ . Identify for each point whether it gives a maximum or or minimum.
- (2) Use the method of Lagrange multipliers to find the minimum value of the function  $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + 2y^2 + 3z^2$  subject to the two constraints  $x + y = 1$  and  $y + z = 1$ .
- (3) A rectangular box without a lid is to be made from exactly  $12\text{m}^2$  of cardboard. Use the method of Lagrange multipliers to find the maximum volume of such a box.
- (4) Using the properties of the wedge product, show that
  - (a)  $dx \wedge dy \wedge dz = dz \wedge dx \wedge dy = dy \wedge dz \wedge dx$
  - (b)  $(3dx + dy) \wedge (dx + 2dy) = 5dx \wedge dy$ .
- (5)
  - (a) For the 1-form  $\omega = F(x, y, z)dx + G(x, y, z)dy + H(x, y, z)dz$  show that  $d\omega = (G_x - F_y)dx \wedge dy + (H_y - G_z)dy \wedge dz + (F_z - H_x)dz \wedge dx$ .
  - (b) For the 2-form  $\alpha = F(x, y, z)dy \wedge dz + G(x, y, z)dz \wedge dx + H(x, y, z)dx \wedge dy$  show that  $d\alpha = (F_x + G_y + H_z)dx \wedge dy \wedge dz$ .
- (6) A fundamental property of the exterior derivative is that  $d^2 = 0$ . In this problem you are asked to verify this explicitly for functions (0 forms) and 1 forms.
  - (a) For a function  $f$  show that  $d(df) = d^2f = 0$ .
  - (b) For a 1-form  $\omega = F(x, y, z)dx + G(x, y, z)dy + H(x, y, z)dz$  show that  $d(d\omega) = d^2\omega = 0$ , where the coefficients must be sufficiently differentiable so that the “mixed partial derivatives” are equal ( $C^2$  is sufficient).

REFERENCES

1. *Lagrange multipliers material:*  
<http://www.maths.bris.ac.uk/~mayt/MATH11007/2010/notes/LagrangeMultiplierHandout.pdf> ■  
<http://www.maths.bris.ac.uk/~mayt/MATH11007/2010/notes/LagrangeMultiplierLecture.pdf> ■
2. *Differential forms material:*  
<http://www.maths.bris.ac.uk/~mayt/MATH11007/2010/notes/DifferentialFormsLecture.pdf>
3. Donu Arapura, *Introduction to Differential Forms*,  
<http://www.maths.bris.ac.uk/~mayt/MATH11007/2010/notes/arapura.pdf>