

Homework2

Problem 1. Partial integral

1. Prove

$$\iiint f(\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) dv = \oint f \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a} - \iiint (\vec{A} \cdot \nabla f) dv$$

where $\iiint dv$ means a volume integral, and $\oint d\vec{a}$ is the integral over the surface surrounding this volume. f is a scalar function, and \vec{A} is a vector function.

2. We extend the volume integral to the entire space. In many physical applications, $f\vec{A}$ decays faster than $1/r^2$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$. Simplify the above result in this case.

Problem 2. Spherical and cylindrical coordinates

1. The unit vectors of the spherical coordinates are denoted as $(\hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\theta, \hat{e}_\phi)$. Please work out the relation between

$$(\hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\theta, \hat{e}_\phi) = (\hat{e}_x, \hat{e}_y, \hat{e}_z)O$$

where O is a 3×3 orthogonal matrix. Write the explicit form of O .

2. Work out the relation

$$(d\hat{e}_r, d\hat{e}_\theta, d\hat{e}_\phi) = (\hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\theta, \hat{e}_\phi)T$$

where T is a 3×3 antisymmetric matrix. Write the explicit form of T .

3. Now we change to the cylindrical coordinates. Work out the relation between the unit vectors of the cylindrical coordinates and those of the Cartesian coordinates.

$$(\hat{e}_\rho, \hat{e}_\varphi, \hat{e}_z) = (\hat{e}_x, \hat{e}_y, \hat{e}_z)O'$$

Work out the relation

$$(d\hat{e}_\rho, d\hat{e}_\psi, d\hat{e}_z) = (\hat{e}_\rho, \hat{e}_\phi, \hat{e}_z)T'$$

Write down the explicit forms of O' and T' .

Problem 3. Vector calculus in the curvilinear coordinates

Under the spherical coordinate, $d\vec{r} = dr\hat{e}_r + r d\theta\hat{e}_\theta + r \sin\theta d\phi\hat{e}_\phi$. Under the cylindrical coordinate, $d\vec{r} = d\rho\hat{e}_\rho + \rho d\psi\hat{e}_\psi + dz\hat{e}_z$. The formula of the gradient for a scalar function $f(u^1, u^2, u^3)$ in orthogonal curvilinear coordinates is

$$\nabla f = \sum_i \frac{1}{\sqrt{g_{ii}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial u^i} f \vec{e}_{u^i}$$

For a vector field $\vec{v} = v^1\hat{e}_{u^1} + v^2\hat{e}_{u^2} + v^3\hat{e}_{u^3}$, its divergence is

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|detg|}} \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial u^i} \sqrt{\frac{|detg|}{g_{ii}}} v^i$$

(The Einstein notation is not assumed here.)

1. Write down the metric matrix g for the spherical and cylindrical coordinates, such as $(d\vec{s})^2 = g_{ij}du^i du^j$ (Einstein notation is assumed, and $d\vec{s}$ is the distance of tow vector in different coordinates which will not change.). For example in spherical coordinates:
 $du^1 = dr, du^2 = d\theta, du^3 = d\phi$.
2. Write down the volume element dv in terms of the spherical and cylindrical coordinates.
3. Work out the expression of the Laplacian ∇^2 operator in terms of the spherical coordinates and the cylindrical coordinates.