

[Optional.] Work out the differential operators, Gradient, Divergence and Laplacian in Cylindrical and Spherical coordinates

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Assume $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)^T$ in cartesian coordinate,
and $x = (u_1, u_2, u_3)^T$ in other coordinate.

Therefore, by chain rule, (full differential)

$$dx = \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_1} du_1 + \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_2} du_2 + \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_3} du_3$$

Let $h_i = \left\| \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_i} \right\|$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$.

then $e_i = \frac{\frac{\partial x}{\partial u_i}}{h_i}$,

and $dx = h_1 e_1 du_1 + h_2 e_2 du_2 + h_3 e_3 du_3$

Therefore, $\nabla X = \frac{1}{h_1} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_1} e_1 + \frac{1}{h_2} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_2} e_2 + \frac{1}{h_3} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u_3} e_3$.

$$\nabla \cdot X = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left(\frac{\partial (X_1 h_2 h_3)}{\partial u_1} + \frac{\partial (X_2 h_3 h_1)}{\partial u_2} + \frac{\partial (X_3 h_1 h_2)}{\partial u_3} \right)$$

$$\nabla^2 x = \nabla \cdot \nabla X$$

For cylindrical coordinate,

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = 1$$

For spherical coordinate

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r \sin \theta, \quad h_3 = r$$

Therefore, for cylindrical coordinate,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} ; \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} ; \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \mathbf{e}_\phi + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_z$$

$$\nabla \cdot f = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (r f_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$$

For spherical coordinate,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} ; \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} ; \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r \cos \theta}$$

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \mathbf{e}_\phi$$

$$\nabla \cdot f = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 f_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial (f_\phi \sin \theta)}{\partial \phi}$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \right)$$

Use Taylor expansion to obtain the coefficients α , β and γ for the forward and backward difference formulae

Partial difference here is only with respect to x .

By Taylor expansion,

$$f(a+\Delta x) = f(a) + \Delta x f'(a) + \frac{\Delta x^2}{2} f''(a) + O(\Delta x^3)$$

So we can write it as a function of x

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f(a+\Delta x) - f(a)}{\Delta x} = f'(a) + \Delta x f''(a) + \frac{O(\Delta x^3)}{\Delta x} = f'(a) + \Delta x f''(a) + O(\Delta x^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(a) = \frac{f(a+\Delta x) - f(a)}{\Delta x} - \Delta x f''(a) + O(\Delta x^2)$$

the first error term is proportional to Δx

that means the full difference is first-order accurate in Δx .

$$\Rightarrow f'(a) = \frac{f(a+\Delta x) - f(a)}{\Delta x} + O(\Delta x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha = 1 \\ \beta = -1 \\ \gamma = 0 \end{cases}$$

By Taylor expansion,

$$f(a-\Delta x) = f(a) - \Delta x f'(a) + \frac{\Delta x^2}{2} f''(a) + O(\Delta x^3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f(a-\Delta x) - f(a)}{-\Delta x} = f'(a) - \frac{\Delta x}{2} f''(a) + O(\Delta x^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(a) = \frac{f(a) - f(a-\Delta x)}{\Delta x} + \frac{\Delta x}{2} f''(a) + O(\Delta x^2)$$

$$= \frac{f(a) - f(a-\Delta x)}{\Delta x} + O(\Delta x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha = 0 \\ \beta = 1 \\ \gamma = 1 \end{cases}$$