



Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Mathematical Methods I (Spring 2021-22)
Assignment-1

Curvilinear Coordinates and Tensors

Q.1. Consider the distance-squared ds^2 in a coordinate system (u_1, u_2, u_3) given as:

$$ds^2 = h_1^2 du_1^2 + h_2^2 du_2^2 + h_3^2 du_3^2$$

where $h_{1,2,3}$ are the scale factors which depend on the coordinates.

(a)(3 points) Obtain general expressions for the gradient, divergence, curl and Laplacian.

(b)(3 points) Use the general expressions obtained above and write down the corresponding ones (i.e.gradient, divergence, curl and Laplacian) for spherical polar and cylindrical coordinates.

Q.2.(4 points) The Navier-Stokes equations of hydrodynamics contain a nonlinear term

$$\nabla \times [\vec{v} \times (\nabla \times \vec{v})]$$

where \vec{v} is the fluid velocity. Evaluate this term in cylindrical coordinates assuming fluid is flowing in the z direction.

Q.3. (4 points) A single current loop in the x y -plane has a vector potential \vec{A} that is a function only of r and θ , is entirely in the \vec{e}_ϕ direction and is related to the current density \vec{J} by the equation

$$\mu_0 \vec{J} = \nabla \times \vec{B} = \nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{e}_\phi A_\phi)$$

Evaluate the RHS of this equation in spherical polar coordinate.

Q.4.(3 points) The cartesian components of the acceleration vector are

$$a_x = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}, a_y = \frac{d^2y}{dt^2}, a_z = \frac{d^2z}{dt^2}$$

Find the components of the acceleration vector in the spherical polar coordinates.

Q.5.(3 points) If A_k^{ij} and B_q^p are tensors, show that $A_k^{ij} B_q^i$ is not a tensor.

Q.6.(4 points) Prove that central forces are irrotation.