三维欧氏空间10个常用矢量恒等式的微分形式证明

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ABSTRACT: 梁灿彬先生的《微分几何入门与广义相对论》中第5.6节提到使用微分形式记号与抽象指标可以让一些矢量公式的证明推证简化而理由清晰,本文即尝试补充了10个常用的矢量恒等式的微分形式证明。

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在阅读梁灿彬先生的《微分几何入门与广义相对论》(以下简称"教材")的第5.6节时,我对其中"以微分几何观点重新观察3维欧氏空间上的矢量场论"这一点比较感兴趣。在大一时,我们在高数中学过以下10个矢量恒等式(黑体表示矢量,f为标量场,A, B, C为 矢量场):

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A} \tag{0.1}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = 0 \tag{0.2}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla f) = 0 \tag{0.3}$$

$$\nabla \times (f\mathbf{A}) = \nabla f \times \mathbf{A} + f\nabla \times \mathbf{A} \tag{0.4}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (f\mathbf{A}) = (\nabla f) \cdot \mathbf{A} + f(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) \tag{0.5}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \tag{0.6}$$

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = ((\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}) + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A} - ((\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) + \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}$$
(0.7)

$$\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) \tag{0.8}$$

$$A \cdot (B \times C) = B \cdot (C \times A) = C \cdot (A \times B) \tag{0.9}$$

$$\nabla (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) = (\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B} + (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) + \mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})$$
(0.10)

梁先生在教材中给出了 (0.6)和(0.10) 的证明,可以看到使用抽象指标可以使公式的推证简化且理由清晰. 我希望我能够给出这些式子的逐步推导,以供参考.

由于笔者能力有限,可能对其中的公式理解运用有错漏,希望大家批评指正.

1 符号解释

首先我将给出我对涉及到的符号的理解.

三维欧氏空间中,矢量场论的 ∇ 就是与欧氏度规 δ_{ab} 适配的导数算符 ∂_a .关于导数算符的定义,教材的3.1节已有严谨的定义.其实这里这个 ∂_a 就是我们正常理解的求偏导的算符.特别地有 $\partial_a\partial_bA^c=\partial_b\partial_aA^c$ (教材P59).

诸如 A^a 的a这样是张量的抽象指标记号,具体参考教材第2.6节的规定. A^a 代表矢量.这种记法的好处是我们可以将张量带着其自身的抽象指标互相交换,比如 $A_aB_b=B_bA_a$.

回顾我们高数书中的定义:

$$\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{k}$$

$$\nabla u = \operatorname{grad} u = (\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z})$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{F} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial z}$$

$$\operatorname{rot} \mathbf{f} = \nabla \times \mathbf{f} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \\ P & Q & R \end{vmatrix}$$

很显然:

$$\nabla f = \partial_a f \tag{1.1}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \partial_a A^a \tag{1.2}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \epsilon^{abc} \partial_a A_b \tag{1.3}$$

 ϵ^{abc} 是体元,满足 $\partial_A \epsilon^{abc} = 0$ (教材定理5-4-2),在这里也可以看成我们熟知的Levi-Civita记号,关于每对上标反对称.有常用恒等式:

$$\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{imn} = \delta_{jm}\delta_{kn} - \delta_{jn}\delta_{km} \tag{1.4}$$

另外,本来抽象指标的上下标是有区别的,比如 A^a 和 A_a 所代表的意义是不同的(一个是矢量,一个是对偶矢量),但由于我们总可以利用欧氏度规把对偶矢量 A_a 变为 $\delta_a b A^b$,所以在这里我们不区分上下标.

2 证明(<mark>0.1</mark>)

要证:

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}$$

LHS =
$$\varepsilon^{abc}\partial_a(\nabla \times \mathbf{A})_b$$

= $\varepsilon^{abc}\partial_a(\varepsilon_{bdf}\partial_d A_f)$
= $\varepsilon^{cab}\varepsilon_{bdf}\partial_a\partial_d A_f$
= $(\delta^c{}_d\delta^a{}_f - \delta^c{}_f\delta^a{}_d)\partial_a\partial_d A_f$
= $\partial_a\partial_c A_a - \partial_d\partial_d A_c$

RHS =
$$\nabla(\nabla \cdot A) - \nabla^2 A$$

= $\partial_b(\partial_a A^a) - \partial_c \partial^c A^d$

左右显然相等.得证.

3 证明(<mark>0.2</mark>)

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})$$

$$= \partial_a (\varepsilon^{abc} \partial_b A_c)$$

$$= \varepsilon^{abc} \partial_a \partial_b A_c$$

$$= 0$$

最后一步注意到普通导数算符 ∂_a 的"可交换性"和Levi-Civita记号即可证明.

4 证明(0.3)

$$\nabla \times (\nabla f)$$

$$= \varepsilon^{abc} \partial_a (\nabla f)_b$$

$$= \varepsilon^{abc} \partial_a \partial_b f$$

$$= 0$$

最后一步理由同上.

5 证明(0.4)

要证:

$$\nabla \times (f\mathbf{A}) = \nabla f \times \mathbf{A} + f \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$$

$$LHS = \varepsilon^{cab} \partial_a (fA^b)$$

$$RHS = \varepsilon^{cab}(\partial_a f A^b) + \varepsilon^{cab} f \partial_a A_b$$

左右显然相等,如果不显然可以参考教材3.1节定义1的(b).

6 证明(0.5)

要证:

$$\nabla \cdot (f\mathbf{A}) = (\nabla f) \cdot \mathbf{A} + f(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})$$

$$LHS = \partial_a(fA^a)$$

$$RHS = (\partial_a f) A^a + f(\partial_a A^a)$$

左右显然相等,理由同上.

7 证明(0.6)

要证:

$$\nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{A} \times \boldsymbol{B}) = (\nabla \times \boldsymbol{A}) \cdot \boldsymbol{B} - \boldsymbol{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \boldsymbol{B})$$

$$LHS = \varepsilon^{abc} \partial_a (A_b B_c)$$

$$RHS = (\varepsilon^{cab} \partial_a A_b) B_c - A_b \varepsilon^{bac} \partial_a B_c$$

$$= \varepsilon^{cab} ((\partial_a A_b) B_c + A_b \partial_a B_c)$$

左右显然相等,理由同上.

8 证明(0.7)

该公式正是教材第五章习题14. 要证:

$$\nabla \times (\boldsymbol{A} \times \boldsymbol{B}) = ((\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B}) + \boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{A} - ((\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{A}) + \boldsymbol{A} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{B}$$

$$\text{LHS} = \nabla \times (\varepsilon^{abc} A_a B_b)$$

$$= \varepsilon^{fdc} \partial_d (\varepsilon^{abc} A_a B_b)$$

$$= \varepsilon^{fdc} \varepsilon^{cab} \partial_d (A_a B_b)$$

$$= (\delta^f{}_a \delta^d{}_b - \delta^f{}_b \delta^d{}_a) \partial_d (A_a B_b)$$

$$= \delta^f{}_a \delta^d{}_b \partial_d (A_a B_b) - \delta^f{}_b \delta^d{}_a \partial_d (A_a B_b)$$

$$= \partial_d (A_f B_d) - \partial_d (A_d B_f)$$

$$\text{RHS} = (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B}) A + (\boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla) A - (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{A}) B - (\boldsymbol{A} \cdot \nabla) B$$

$$= (\partial_d B^d) A^f + B^d \partial_d A^f - (\partial_d A^d) B^f - A^d \partial_d B^f$$

左右两边显然相等.

9 证明(0.8)

要证:

$$A \times (B \times C) = B(A \cdot C) - C(A \cdot B)$$

注意, 叉乘没有结合律.

LHS =
$$A \times (B \times C)$$

= $\varepsilon^{fad} A_a \times (B \times C)_d$
= $\varepsilon^{fad} \varepsilon_{dbc} A_a B_b C_c$
= $(\delta^f{}_b \delta^a{}_c - \delta^f{}_c \delta^a{}_b) A_a B_b C^c$
= $A_a B_f C^a - A_a B_a C^f$
RHS = $B^f A^a C_a - C^f A^a B_a$

左右两边显然相等.

10 证明(0.9)

要证:

$$A \cdot (B \times C) = B \cdot (C \times A) = C \cdot (A \times B)$$

以第一个等号为例,只需要注意到 $A^a \varepsilon_{abc} B^b C^c = B^b \varepsilon_{bca} C^c A^a$ 即可.

11 证明(0.10)

要证:

$$\nabla (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) = (\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B} + (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) + \mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})$$

$$LHS = \partial^b (A^a B_a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{RHS} = A^a \partial_a B^b + B^b \partial_b A^a + \varepsilon^{fdc} \varepsilon_{cba} A_d \partial^b B^a + \varepsilon_{bcf} \varepsilon^{fda} B^c \partial_d A_a \\ & = A^a \partial_a B^b + B^b \partial_b A^a + (\delta^f{}_b \delta^d{}_a - \delta^f{}_a \delta^d{}_b) A_d \partial^b B^a + (\delta^b{}_d \delta^c{}_a - \delta^b{}_a \delta^c{}_d) B^c \partial_d A_a \\ & = A^a \partial_a B^b + B^b \partial_b A^a + \delta^f{}_b \delta^d{}_a A_d \partial^b B^a - \delta^f{}_a \delta^d{}_b A_d \partial^b B^a + \delta^b{}_d \delta^c{}_a B^c \partial_d A_a - \delta^b{}_a \delta^c{}_d B^c \partial_d A_a \\ & = A^a \partial_a B^b + B^b \partial_b A^a + A_a \partial^f B^a - A_b \partial^b B^f + B^a \partial_b A_a - B^d \partial_d A_b \\ & = A_a \partial^b B^a + B^a \partial_b A_a \end{aligned}$$

左右两边显然相等.

这个公式的证明过程在教材上有,和(0.7)过程类似.都比较复杂,需要选好缩并的指标.