



# Math Preliminaries

## A Short Introduction to Tensor Algebra and Analysis

Kenny Erleben  
Department of Computer Science

University of Copenhagen



## A Vector

Let  $\mathbf{v}$  be a first-order tensor this means

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^3 v_i \mathbf{e}_i$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_i$ 's are some base vectors. We call this a vector. The components are given by

$$v_i = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{e}_i$$

In matrix-vector notation, we write the components as a 3-by-1 (column) vector

$$[\mathbf{v}] = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Dot Product of Vectors

From the definition of a vector, we may now work out what the dot product of two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  is:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 u_i \mathbf{e}_i \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 v_j \mathbf{e}_j \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 u_i v_j \mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_j \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 u_i v_i\end{aligned}$$

## A 2nd Order Tensor

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a second-order tensor means  $\mathbf{A}$  is a linear map that associates a given vector  $\mathbf{u}$  with a second vector  $\mathbf{v}$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}$$

The components are given by

$$\mathbf{A}_{ij} = \mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{A}\mathbf{e}_j$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{e}_j$  are base vectors. Or

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i,j=1}^3 A_{ij} \mathbf{e}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j$$

where  $(\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{u}$ .

## Tensor applied to vector

With this expression, we may have a second look at the definition of a second-order tensor as a linear mapping of vectors

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v} &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 A_{ij} \mathbf{e}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j \right) \left( \sum_{k=1}^3 u_k \mathbf{e}_k \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 A_{ij} u_j \mathbf{e}_i\end{aligned}$$

We observe the similarity between the definition of the second-order tensor with a matrix-vector product.

## The Relation to a Matrix

When dealing with a tensor then it is “independent” of the basis, hence

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i,j=1}^3 A_{ij} \mathbf{e}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j = \sum_{i,j=1}^3 A'_{ij} \mathbf{e}'_i \otimes \mathbf{e}'_j$$

where the primed basis is some other basis. If we pick a specific basis then we may write the components of the second-order tensor as entries of a 3-by-3 matrix

$$[\mathbf{A}] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{11} & \mathbf{A}_{12} & \mathbf{A}_{13} \\ \mathbf{A}_{21} & \mathbf{A}_{22} & \mathbf{A}_{23} \\ \mathbf{A}_{31} & \mathbf{A}_{32} & \mathbf{A}_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Sometimes subscripts on the bracket notation can be used to indicate the basis wrt matrix representation.

## The $\nabla$ operator – The Gradient of a scalar (1/2)

Let

$$\nabla(\cdot) = \sum_i \partial_i(\cdot) \mathbf{e}_i$$

be the differential vector operator where

$$\partial_i \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$$

If we used some other set of coordinates  $\mathbf{y}$  then we write

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{y}}(\cdot) = \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i}(\cdot) \mathbf{e}_i$$

## The $\nabla$ operator – The Gradient of a scalar (2/2)

In matrix-vector notation, we may write the  $\nabla$ -operator as

$$[\nabla] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} \end{bmatrix}$$



## The Gradient of a Vector

The  $\nabla$  notation may be defined when applied to a first-order tensor  $\mathbf{b}$  to mean

$$(\nabla \mathbf{b})_{ij} = \partial_j b_i$$

Our definition is precisely the partial derivative of the vector function  $\mathbf{b}$  or what is also termed the Jacobian of  $\mathbf{b}$ . Observe that when  $\nabla$  is applied to a first-order tensor the result is a second-order tensor.

## Divergence of a Vector

Another useful differential operation is the divergence operator of a vector which we define as

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} \equiv \sum_i \partial_i b_i$$

Notice this maps a first-order tensor into a zero-order tensor as we expect.

## Divergence of a Tensor

We write the divergence of  $\mathbf{A}$  as

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \sum_j \sum_i \partial_i \mathbf{A}_{ij} \mathbf{e}_j$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_j$  is the  $j^{\text{th}}$  unit vector. In terms of matrix notation, this corresponds to

$$\underbrace{[\partial_1 \partial_2 \partial_3]}_{\nabla^T} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{11} & \mathbf{A}_{12} & \mathbf{A}_{13} \\ \mathbf{A}_{21} & \mathbf{A}_{22} & \mathbf{A}_{23} \\ \mathbf{A}_{31} & \mathbf{A}_{32} & \mathbf{A}_{33} \end{bmatrix} = [(\sum_i \partial_i \mathbf{A}_{i1}) \quad (\sum_i \partial_i \mathbf{A}_{i2}) \quad (\sum_i \partial_i \mathbf{A}_{i3})]$$

Each component is the divergence of the corresponding column vector.

## Product Rule for Divergence

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a second order tensor and  $\mathbf{b}$  a vector and  $\nabla = [\partial_1 \quad \partial_2 \quad \partial_3]^T$  Then

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{b}) = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{A} : (\nabla \mathbf{b})^T$$

where

$$\nabla \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_1 \mathbf{b}_1 & \partial_2 \mathbf{b}_1 & \partial_3 \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \partial_1 \mathbf{b}_2 & \partial_2 \mathbf{b}_2 & \partial_3 \mathbf{b}_2 \\ \partial_1 \mathbf{b}_3 & \partial_2 \mathbf{b}_3 & \partial_3 \mathbf{b}_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The double contraction between two second-order tensors  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$  is defined as

$$\mathbf{A} : \mathbf{B} = \sum_i \sum_j A_{ij} B_{ij}$$

## Symmetric Product Rule for Divergence

If  $\mathbf{A}$  is a symmetric second-order tensor then we may write  $\mathbf{A}^T = \mathbf{A}$ . This means

$$\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{A} \mathbf{e}_j = \mathbf{e}_j \cdot \mathbf{A} \mathbf{e}_i$$

Or using index notation  $\mathbf{A}_{ij} = \mathbf{A}_{ji}$ .

Now we assume that  $\mathbf{A}$  is a symmetric tensor then the product rule from the previous page can be rewritten as

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

## Motivation for Change of Variables

TODO: Motivate the need for change of variables when doing integration

TODO: make a drawing explaining notation of  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}$ ,  $\phi$  etc.

## The Rule for Change of Variables

If  $\mathbf{x} = \Phi(\mathbf{X})$  and the domain is given by  $\mathbf{X} \in V$  and the range by  $\mathbf{x} \in v$  then change of variables is given by

$$\int_v f(\mathbf{x}) dv = \int_V f(\Phi(\mathbf{X})) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \right) \right| dV$$

Usually we write  $j = \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \right) \right|$  and then we have

$$dv = j dV$$

## Motivation for Nansen's Relation

TODO: Motivate the need for Nansen's relation

TODO: make a drawing explaining what goes on... what is the difference between Nansen's relation and the rule for change of variables.



## Nanson's Relation (1/2)

Let the volume elements in spatial (lower case) and material (upper case) coordinates be written as

$$dv = d\mathbf{x} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

$$dV = d\mathbf{X} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

where  $d\mathbf{x} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} d\mathbf{X}$  and  $d\mathbf{s} = ds \mathbf{n}$  and  $d\mathbf{S} = dS \mathbf{N}$ . From change of variables and using  $\mathbf{F} \equiv \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{X}}$  we may write up the relations,

$$dv = j dV$$

$$d\mathbf{x} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = j d\mathbf{X} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

$$d\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T ds \mathbf{n} = d\mathbf{X} \cdot j dS \mathbf{N}$$

## Nanson's Relation (2/2)

From the relation,

$$d\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T ds \mathbf{n} = d\mathbf{X} \cdot j dS \mathbf{N}$$

We have Nanson's Relation

$$ds \mathbf{n} = j \mathbf{F}^{-T} dS \mathbf{N}$$

## The Contraction and Trace Relation

$$\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}^T) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{A} : \mathbf{B}$$

Proof, by definition

$$\begin{aligned}\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{B}) &= \sum_j (\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{B})_{jj} \\ &= \sum_j \left( \sum_i \mathbf{A}_{ji}^T \mathbf{B}_{ij} \right) \\ &= \sum_j \sum_i \mathbf{A}_{ij} \mathbf{B}_{ij}\end{aligned}$$

The proof follows by comparison with  $\mathbf{A} : \mathbf{B} = \sum_j \sum_i \mathbf{A}_{ij} \mathbf{B}_{ij}$

## Trace

It can be shown for second-order tensors **A**, **B**, and **C**, that

$$a \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{A}) = \operatorname{tr}(a \mathbf{A})$$

and

$$\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{AB}) = \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{BA})$$

also

$$\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{ABC}) = \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{CAB})$$

The first two “rules” follow straightforward definitions. The third rule comes from applying the second rule,  $\operatorname{tr}((\mathbf{AB}) \mathbf{C}) = \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{AB}))$ .

## Derivatives wrt. Tensors

Let  $f(\mathbf{A})$  be a scalar function of the tensor  $\mathbf{A}$  then by definition we have

$$\left[ \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial \mathbf{A}} \right]_{ij} = \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial \mathbf{A}_{ij}}$$

## Differentiation Rules

Let  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$

$$\frac{\partial (\mathbf{A} : \mathbf{B})}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{B}$$

$$\frac{\partial (\mathbf{A} : \mathbf{B})}{\partial \mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{A}$$

$$\frac{\partial (\mathbf{A} : \mathbf{A})}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = 2 \mathbf{A}$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{I}$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^2)}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^T$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})^2}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = 2 \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{I}$$

## More Differentiation

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a second-order tensor then

$$\frac{\partial \det(\mathbf{A})}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = \det(\mathbf{A}) \mathbf{A}^{-T}$$

# Assignment

- Prove the Product Rule formula on Page 12.



# Assignment

- Prove the symmetric form of the vector divergence formula on Page 13.

# Assignment

- Derive the change of variables formula on Page 15 for specialized cases of 2D and 3D.

# Assignment

- TODO: Apply the rule of changes of variables from Page 15 to 3-4 simple examples

# Assignment

- TODO: Make some simple examples to play with Nansen's relation from Page 18

# Assignment

- Prove the differentiation rules on Page 22.

## Assignment

- Prove the determinant differentiation rule on Page 23 for a symmetric tensor.

Hints: First prove  $\frac{\partial \lambda_k}{\partial \mathbf{A}_{ij}} = (\mathbf{n}_k \cdot \mathbf{e}_i) (\mathbf{n}_k \cdot \mathbf{e}_j) = (\mathbf{n}_k \otimes \mathbf{n}_k)_{ij}$  where  $\lambda_k$ 's are eigenvalues and  $\mathbf{n}_k$  are eigenvectors. Then use chain rule  $\frac{\partial \det \mathbf{A}}{\partial \mathbf{A}_{ij}} = \sum_{m=1}^3 \frac{\partial \det \mathbf{A}}{\partial \lambda_m} \frac{\partial \lambda_m}{\partial \mathbf{A}_{ij}}$ .