

Solved selected problems of Classical Electrodynamics - Hans Ohanian

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Chapter 1 - Vector Calculus

Problems

Solution. 8. Knowing that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} &= \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} \cos \phi + \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} \sin \phi \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} &= -\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} \sin \phi + \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} \cos \phi \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} &= \hat{\boldsymbol{z}}\end{aligned}$$

We can compute the following

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} & \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} & \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \\ \cos \phi & \sin \phi & 0 \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \cos^2 \phi - (-\hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \sin^2 \phi) = \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} & \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} & \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} \cos \phi + \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} \sin \phi = \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} & \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} & \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \\ \cos \phi & \sin \phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} \sin \phi - \hat{\boldsymbol{y}} \cos \phi = -\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. 9. Knowing that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{r}} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}} \sin \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \sin \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cos \theta \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos \theta \sin \phi - \hat{\mathbf{z}} \sin \theta \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} &= -\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

We can compute the following

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \sin \theta \cos \phi & \sin \theta \sin \phi & \cos \theta \\ \cos \theta \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi & -\sin \theta \end{vmatrix} \\ &= -\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sin^2 \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos^2 \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \sin \theta \cos \phi \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ &\quad - \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cos \theta \cos \phi \sin \theta \sin \phi - \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos^2 \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \sin^2 \theta \cos \phi \\ &= -\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos \phi \\ &= \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \cos \theta \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi & -\sin \theta \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{y}} \sin \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cos \theta \cos^2 \phi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cos \theta \sin^2 \phi + \hat{\mathbf{x}} \sin \theta \cos \phi \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{r}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \sin \theta \cos \phi & \sin \theta \sin \phi & \cos \theta \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= -\hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \sin \theta \cos^2 \phi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \sin \theta \sin^2 \phi - \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos \theta \cos \phi \\ &= -\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. 10. Let \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} be vectors then

(a) We know that $\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$ can be written as $\varepsilon^{klm} a^l (\varepsilon^{mrs} b^r c^s)$ then

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^{klm} a^l (\varepsilon^{mrs} b^r c^s) &= \varepsilon^{klm} \varepsilon^{mrs} a^l b^r c^s \\ &= \varepsilon^{klm} \varepsilon^{rsm} a^l b^r c^s \\ &= (\delta^{kr} \delta^{ls} - \delta^{ks} \delta^{lr}) a^l b^r c^s \\ &= \delta^{kr} \delta^{ls} a^l b^r c^s - \delta^{ks} \delta^{lr} a^l b^r c^s \\ &= b^k a^s c^s - c^k a^r b^r \end{aligned}$$

This implies, written in vector format that

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

(b) We know that $\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$ can be written as $a^k (\varepsilon^{klm} b^l c^m)$ then since $\varepsilon^{klm} = \varepsilon^{mkl}$ we have that

$$a^k (\varepsilon^{klm} b^l c^m) = (\varepsilon^{mkl} a^k b^l) c^m$$

This implies, written in vector format that

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

□

Solution. 11. Let \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} be three arbitrary vectors then expanding the product $\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$ gives us

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) &= \varepsilon^{klm} A^k B^l C^m \\
&= \varepsilon^{123} A^1 B^2 C^3 + \varepsilon^{231} A^2 B^3 C^1 + \varepsilon^{312} A^3 B^1 C^2 \\
&\quad + \varepsilon^{213} A^2 B^1 C^3 + \varepsilon^{132} A^1 B^3 C^2 + \varepsilon^{321} A^3 B^2 C^1 \\
&= A^1 B^2 C^3 + A^2 B^3 C^1 + A^3 B^1 C^2 \\
&\quad - A^2 B^1 C^3 - A^1 B^3 C^2 - A^3 B^2 C^1
\end{aligned}$$

But also we know that

$$\begin{vmatrix} A^1 & B^1 & C^1 \\ A^2 & B^2 & C^2 \\ A^3 & B^3 & C^3 \end{vmatrix} = A^1 B^2 C^3 + A^2 B^3 C^1 + A^3 B^1 C^2 \\
- A^2 B^1 C^3 - A^1 B^3 C^2 - A^3 B^2 C^1$$

Hence

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \varepsilon^{klm} A^k B^l C^m = \begin{vmatrix} A^1 & B^1 & C^1 \\ A^2 & B^2 & C^2 \\ A^3 & B^3 & C^3 \end{vmatrix}$$

On the other hand, we know that the volume of a parallelepiped with edges \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} is the area of the parallelogram formed by the vectors \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} times the "height" given by $|\mathbf{A}| \cos \alpha$ where α is the angle formed by \mathbf{A} and the vertical, normal to the parallelogram area. The area of the parallelogram is given by $|\mathbf{B}||\mathbf{C}| \sin \beta$ where β is the angle between \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} . So joining these reasonings we get that

$$V = |\mathbf{A}|(|\mathbf{B}||\mathbf{C}| \sin \beta) \cos \alpha$$

Which is the same as saying that

$$V = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$$

□

Solution. 12. Let Q^{kl} be a matrix, then the determinant of Q^{kl} is given by

$$\begin{vmatrix} Q^{11} & Q^{12} & Q^{13} \\ Q^{21} & Q^{22} & Q^{23} \\ Q^{31} & Q^{32} & Q^{33} \end{vmatrix} = Q^{11}Q^{22}Q^{33} + Q^{12}Q^{23}Q^{31} + Q^{13}Q^{21}Q^{32} \\ - Q^{31}Q^{22}Q^{13} - Q^{11}Q^{23}Q^{32} - Q^{12}Q^{21}Q^{33}$$

Now, let us compute the explicit expression of $\varepsilon^{klm}Q^{k1}Q^{l2}Q^{m3}$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^{klm}Q^{k1}Q^{l2}Q^{m3} &= \varepsilon^{123}Q^{11}Q^{22}Q^{33} + \varepsilon^{231}Q^{21}Q^{32}Q^{13} + \varepsilon^{312}Q^{31}Q^{12}Q^{23} \\ &\quad + \varepsilon^{213}Q^{21}Q^{12}Q^{33} + \varepsilon^{132}Q^{11}Q^{32}Q^{23} + \varepsilon^{321}Q^{31}Q^{22}Q^{13} \\ &= Q^{11}Q^{22}Q^{33} + Q^{21}Q^{32}Q^{13} + Q^{31}Q^{12}Q^{23} \\ &\quad - Q^{21}Q^{12}Q^{33} - Q^{11}Q^{32}Q^{23} - Q^{31}Q^{22}Q^{13} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we see that $\varepsilon^{klm}Q^{k1}Q^{l2}Q^{m3} = \det\{Q^{kl}\}$. \square

Solution. 15. Let T^{kl} and Q^{lm} be tensors, we want to prove that $T^{kl}Q^{lm}$ is also a tensor. Let us compute $T^{kl}Q^{lm}$ knowing that T^{kl} and Q^{lm} transform as tensors, then

$$\begin{aligned} T'^{kl}Q'^{lm} &= a^{kn}a^{lr}T^{nr}a^{ls}a^{md}Q^{sd} \\ &= a^{kn}a^{md}T^{nr}(a^T)^{rl}a^{ls}Q^{sd} \\ &= a^{kn}a^{md}T^{nr}\delta^{rs}Q^{sd} \\ &= a^{kn}a^{md}T^{nr}Q^{rd} \end{aligned}$$

So we see that $T^{kl}Q^{lm}$ transform like a tensor and therefore $T^{kl}Q^{lm}$ is a tensor. \square

Solution. 17.

(a) We know that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\rho} &= \hat{x} \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi \\ \hat{\phi} &= -\hat{x} \sin \phi + \hat{y} \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

Then by multiplying the first equation by $\cos \phi$ and the second one by $\sin \phi$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\rho} \cos \phi &= \hat{x} \cos^2 \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi \cos \phi \\ \hat{\phi} \sin \phi &= -\hat{x} \sin^2 \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

By subtracting the second equation from the first one we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x} \cos^2 \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi \cos \phi + \hat{x} \sin^2 \phi - \hat{y} \sin \phi \cos \phi &= \hat{\rho} \cos \phi - \hat{\phi} \sin \phi \\ \hat{x} &= \hat{\rho} \cos \phi - \hat{\phi} \sin \phi\end{aligned}$$

Now by multiplying the equation for $\hat{\rho}$ by $\sin \phi$ and the equation for $\hat{\phi}$ by $\cos \phi$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\rho} \sin \phi &= \hat{x} \cos \phi \sin \phi + \hat{y} \sin^2 \phi \\ \hat{\phi} \cos \phi &= -\hat{x} \sin \phi \cos \phi + \hat{y} \cos^2 \phi\end{aligned}$$

So by adding both equations, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x} \cos \phi \sin \phi + \hat{y} \sin^2 \phi - \hat{x} \sin \phi \cos \phi + \hat{y} \cos^2 \phi &= \hat{\rho} \sin \phi + \hat{\phi} \cos \phi \\ \hat{y} &= \hat{\rho} \sin \phi + \hat{\phi} \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

(b) We know that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r} &= \hat{x} \sin \theta \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \theta \sin \phi + \hat{z} \cos \theta \\ \hat{\theta} &= \hat{x} \cos \theta \cos \phi + \hat{y} \cos \theta \sin \phi - \hat{z} \sin \theta \\ \hat{\phi} &= -\hat{x} \sin \phi + \hat{y} \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

Let us multiply the equation for \hat{r} by $\sin \theta$ and the equation for $\hat{\theta}$ by $\cos \theta$ to get

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r} \sin \theta &= \sin^2 \theta (\hat{x} \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi) + \hat{z} \cos \theta \sin \theta \\ \hat{\theta} \cos \theta &= \cos^2 \theta (\hat{x} \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi) - \hat{z} \sin \theta \cos \theta\end{aligned}$$

Then by adding both equations, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r} \sin \theta + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta &= \hat{x} \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) \\ &= \hat{x} \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Now let us multiply again equation (1) by $\sin \phi$ and the equation for $\hat{\phi}$ by $\cos \phi$ to get

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r} \sin \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta \sin \phi &= \hat{x} \cos \phi \sin \phi + \hat{y} \sin^2 \phi \\ \hat{\phi} \cos \phi &= -\hat{x} \sin \phi \cos \phi + \hat{y} \cos^2 \phi\end{aligned}$$

Then by adding both equations, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y} \sin^2 \phi + \hat{y} \cos^2 \phi &= \hat{r} \sin \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\phi} \cos \phi \\ \hat{y} &= \hat{r} \sin \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta \sin \phi + \hat{\phi} \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

Instead, if we multiply equation (1) by $\cos \phi$ and the equation for $\hat{\phi}$ by $\sin \phi$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta \cos \phi &= \hat{x} \cos^2 \phi + \hat{y} \sin \phi \cos \phi \\ \hat{\phi} \sin \phi &= -\hat{x} \sin^2 \phi + \hat{y} \cos \phi \sin \phi\end{aligned}$$

So if we subtract them we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x} \cos^2 \phi + \hat{x} \sin^2 \phi &= \hat{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\phi} \sin \phi \\ \hat{x} &= \hat{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\theta} \cos \theta \cos \phi + \hat{\phi} \sin \phi\end{aligned}$$

Finally, let us multiply the equation for \hat{r} by $\cos \theta$ and the equation for $\hat{\theta}$ by $\sin \theta$ to get

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r} \cos \theta &= \hat{x} \sin \theta \cos \phi \cos \theta + \hat{y} \sin \theta \sin \phi \cos \theta + \hat{z} \cos^2 \theta \\ \hat{\theta} \sin \theta &= \hat{x} \cos \theta \cos \phi \sin \theta + \hat{y} \cos \theta \sin \phi \sin \theta - \hat{z} \sin^2 \theta\end{aligned}$$

Then by subtracting both equations, we get that

$$\hat{z} = \hat{r} \cos \theta - \hat{\theta} \sin \theta$$

□

Solution. 18. Let $\mathbf{x} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $\mathbf{x} : (x_1, x_2, x_3) \rightarrow (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ then we have that

(a) We want to show that $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{x} = 3$ hence

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{x} &= \frac{\partial x^k}{\partial x^k} \\ &= \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_3} \\ &= 1 + 1 + 1 \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

(b) In this case, we want to show that $\nabla 1/|\mathbf{x}| = -\mathbf{x}/|\mathbf{x}|^3$ where $|\mathbf{x}| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}$ so we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}} \\ &= \left(-\frac{x_1}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2)^{3/2}}, -\frac{x_2}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2)^{3/2}}, -\frac{x_3}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2)^{3/2}} \right) \\ &= \left(-\frac{x_1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3}, -\frac{x_2}{|\mathbf{x}|^3}, -\frac{x_3}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \right) \\ &= -\frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^3}\end{aligned}$$

(c) Now, we want to show that $\nabla^2 1/|\mathbf{x}| = 0$ hence

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \left(-\frac{x^k}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \left(-\frac{x_1}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \left(-\frac{x_2}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} \left(-\frac{x_3}{|\mathbf{x}|^3} \right) \\ &= \frac{2x_1^2 - x_2^2 - x_3^2}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} + \frac{2x_2^2 - x_1^2 - x_3^2}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} + \frac{2x_3^2 - x_2^2 - x_1^2}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} \\ &= \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|^5} (2x_1^2 - x_2^2 - x_3^2 + 2x_2^2 - x_1^2 - x_3^2 + 2x_3^2 - x_2^2 - x_1^2) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

(c) Finally, we want to show that $(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{B}$ so we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{x} &= B^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \mathbf{x} \\
&= \left(B_{x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + B_{x_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + B_{x_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} \right) \mathbf{x} \\
&= \left(\left(B_{x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} x_1 + B_{x_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} x_1 + B_{x_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} x_1 \right), \right. \\
&\quad \left(B_{x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} x_2 + B_{x_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} x_2 + B_{x_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} x_2 \right), \\
&\quad \left. \left(B_{x_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} x_3 + B_{x_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} x_3 + B_{x_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} x_3 \right) \right) \\
&= (B_{x_1}, B_{x_2}, B_{x_3}) \\
&= \mathbf{B}
\end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} x_i = 1$.

□

Solution. 19. Let ϕ and ψ be scalar fields. We prove below a few identities.

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla(\phi\psi) &= \hat{x} \frac{\partial(\phi\psi)}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial(\phi\psi)}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial(\phi\psi)}{\partial z} \\
&= \hat{x} \left(\psi \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} \right) + \hat{y} \left(\psi \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial y} \right) + \hat{z} \left(\psi \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} + \phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z} \right) \\
&= \psi \left(\hat{x} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \right) + \phi \left(\hat{x} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z} \right) \\
&= \psi \nabla\phi + \phi \nabla\psi
\end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla \cdot (\phi \mathbf{A}) &= \frac{\partial(\phi A^k)}{\partial x^k} \\
&= \phi \frac{\partial A^k}{\partial x^k} + A^k \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x^k} \\
&= \phi \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla\phi
\end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times (\phi \mathbf{A}) &= \varepsilon^{klm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \phi A^m \\ &= \varepsilon^{klm} \left(\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^m + A^m \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x^l} \right) \\ &= \phi \varepsilon^{klm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^m - \varepsilon^{kml} A^m \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x^l} \\ &= \phi \nabla \times \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A} \times \nabla \phi\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. 20. Let \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} be vectors. We will prove a few identities.

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \varepsilon^{klm} A^l B^m \\
&= \varepsilon^{klm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} A^l B^m \\
&= \varepsilon^{klm} \left(A^l \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} B^m + B^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} A^l \right) \\
&= -A^l \varepsilon^{lkm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} B^m + B^m \varepsilon^{mkl} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} A^l \\
&= \mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) - \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})
\end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) &= \varepsilon^{klm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} (\varepsilon^{mrs} A^r B^s) \\
&= \varepsilon^{klm} \varepsilon^{rsm} \left(B^s \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^r + A^r \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} B^s \right) \\
&= (\delta^{kr} \delta^{ls} - \delta^{ks} \delta^{lr}) \left(B^s \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^r + A^r \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} B^s \right) \\
&= \delta^{kr} \delta^{ls} B^s \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^r + \delta^{kr} \delta^{ls} A^r \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} B^s \\
&\quad - \delta^{ks} \delta^{lr} B^s \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^r - \delta^{ks} \delta^{lr} A^r \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} B^s \\
&= B^l \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^k + A^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x^s} B^s - B^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x^r} A^r - A^l \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} B^k \\
&= (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{B} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - (\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}
\end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) &= \varepsilon^{klm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \left(\varepsilon^{mrs} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^r} A^s \right) \\
&= \varepsilon^{klm} \varepsilon^{mrs} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^r} A^s \right) \\
&= (\delta^{kr} \delta^{ls} - \delta^{ks} \delta^{lr}) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^r} A^s \\
&= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} A^l - \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^k \\
&= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^l - \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} A^k \\
&= \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}
\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. 23.

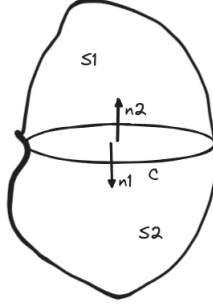
- (a) Let $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = 4xy\hat{\mathbf{x}} + 2x^2\hat{\mathbf{y}} + 3z^2\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ then if we define $\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = 2x^2y + z^3 + C$ which we can get by integration we see that $\mathbf{A} = \nabla\Phi$ where C is a constant.
- (b) Let $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = 4xy\hat{\mathbf{x}} + 3x^2\hat{\mathbf{y}} + 3z^2\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ then if Φ exists such that $\mathbf{A} = \nabla\Phi$ then the double derivatives of Φ commutes, but we see that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}))_x}{\partial y} = 4x \neq 6x = \frac{\partial(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}))_y}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y}$$

Therefore there is no scalar field Φ such that $\mathbf{A} = \nabla\Phi$.

□

Solution. 26. Let S be a closed surface and let C be an arbitrary closed path on S . So we can say that we have "separated" the surface S onto two open surfaces (separated by the area enclosed by C), let us call them S_1 and S_2 , we can see this as follows



Then we can apply Stokes Theorem for both surfaces as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{S_1} \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= - \int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_{S_2} \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \end{aligned}$$

Where we added a minus sign to the first equation because the normal unit vector $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1$ has the opposite direction to $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_2$. Therefore we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_S \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \int_{S_1} \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{S} + \int_{S_2} \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \\ &= - \int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} + \int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. 27. Let S be a closed surface and V the volume contained in it. Also, let Φ be any scalar field and let \mathbf{C} be a constant vector, then we see because of Problem 19 (b) that

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot (\Phi \mathbf{C}) &= \Phi \nabla \cdot \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{C} \cdot \nabla \Phi \\ &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \nabla \Phi\end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{C} = 0$ since \mathbf{C} is a constant vector. Then applying Gauss Theorem to our vector field $\Phi \mathbf{C}$ we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_V \nabla \cdot (\Phi \mathbf{C}) dV &= \int_S (\Phi \mathbf{C}) \cdot d\mathbf{S} \\ \int_V \mathbf{C} \cdot \nabla \Phi dV &= \int_S (\Phi \mathbf{C}) \cdot d\mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{C} \cdot \int_V \nabla \Phi dV &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \int_S \Phi d\mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{C} \cdot \left(\int_V \nabla \Phi dV - \int_S \Phi d\mathbf{S} \right) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Finally, since this must hold for any constant vector \mathbf{C} then it could happen that the vector \mathbf{C} is not perpendicular to $\int_V \nabla \Phi dV - \int_S \Phi d\mathbf{S}$ so it must happen that

$$\int_V \nabla \Phi dV = \int_S \Phi d\mathbf{S}$$

□

Solution. 28. Let S be an open surface and C its boundary. Also, let Φ be any scalar field and let \mathbf{C} be a constant vector, then we see because of Problem 19 (c) that

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times (\Phi \mathbf{C}) &= \Phi \nabla \times \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{C} \times \nabla \Phi \\ &= -\mathbf{C} \times \nabla \Phi\end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $\nabla \times \mathbf{C} = 0$ since \mathbf{C} is a constant vector. Then applying Stoke's Theorem to our vector field $\Phi \mathbf{C}$ we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_S (\nabla \times (\Phi \mathbf{C})) \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \int_C (\Phi \mathbf{C}) \cdot d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_S (-\mathbf{C} \times \nabla \Phi) \cdot d\mathbf{S} &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \int_C \Phi d\mathbf{l} \\ \int_S -\mathbf{C} \cdot (\nabla \Phi \times d\mathbf{S}) &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \int_C \Phi d\mathbf{l} \\ \mathbf{C} \cdot \int_S -(\nabla \Phi \times d\mathbf{S}) &= \mathbf{C} \cdot \int_C \Phi d\mathbf{l} \\ \mathbf{C} \cdot \left(-\int_S \nabla \Phi \times d\mathbf{S} - \int_C \Phi d\mathbf{l} \right) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Where we used the triple product property that $(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$.

Finally, since this must hold for any constant vector \mathbf{C} then it could happen that the vector \mathbf{C} is not perpendicular to $-\int_S \nabla \Phi \times d\mathbf{S} - \int_C \Phi d\mathbf{l}$ so it must happen that

$$-\int_S \nabla \Phi \times d\mathbf{S} = \int_C \Phi d\mathbf{l}$$

□

Solution. 29. We know that $\nabla^2 = \nabla \cdot \nabla$ so we can write the left-hand side of the equation as

$$\int_V \nabla^2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} dV = \int_V \nabla \cdot \left(\nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \right) dV$$

By applying Gauss' Theorem we get that

$$\int_V \nabla^2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} dV = \int_V \nabla \cdot \left(\nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \right) dV = \int_S \nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} d\mathbf{S}$$

Now considering a sphere centered on the origin and working with spherical coordinates, we can write the above equation as

$$\int_V \nabla^2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} dV = \int_S -\frac{1}{r^2} d\mathbf{S}$$

Here we used that the distance from the origin to a point in the sphere surface in spherical coordinates is given by $|\mathbf{x}| = r$ and hence $\nabla 1/r = -1/r^2$.

On the other hand, the surface element in spherical coordinates is given by $d\mathbf{S} = r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi$ so integrating along the entire sphere surface we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_V \nabla^2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} dV &= - \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \right) r^2 \sin \theta \, d\theta d\phi \\ &= - \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin \theta \, d\theta d\phi \\ &= - \int_0^{2\pi} \left[-\cos \theta \right]_0^\pi d\phi \\ &= - \int_0^{2\pi} 2 \, d\phi \\ &= -4\pi \end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. 30. Let S be a closed surface and V the volume contained in it. Also, let \mathbf{A} be any vector field and let \mathbf{B} be a constant vector, then we see because of Problem 20 (a) that

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A}) &= \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \\ &= -\mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})\end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = 0$ since \mathbf{B} is a constant vector. Then applying Gauss's Theorem to our vector field $\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A}$ we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_V \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A}) \, dV &= \int_S (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot d\mathbf{S} \\ \int_V (-\mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})) \, dV &= \int_S \mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times d\mathbf{S}) \\ \mathbf{B} \cdot \int_V -(\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \, dV &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \int_S \mathbf{A} \times d\mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{B} \cdot \left(-\int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \, dV - \int_S \mathbf{A} \times d\mathbf{S} \right) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Finally, since this must hold for any constant vector \mathbf{B} then it could happen that the vector \mathbf{B} is not perpendicular to $-\int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \, dV - \int_S \mathbf{A} \times d\mathbf{S}$ so it must happen that

$$\int_V \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \, dV = - \int_S \mathbf{A} \times d\mathbf{S}$$

□

Solution. 32. Let $\mathbf{j} = C(xr\hat{\mathbf{x}} + yr\hat{\mathbf{y}})$ or in cartesian coordinates

$$\mathbf{j} = C(x\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \hat{\mathbf{y}})$$

So $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \frac{\partial j_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial j_y}{\partial y} \\ &= C \frac{2x^2 + y^2 + z^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} + C \frac{x^2 + 2y^2 + z^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \\ &= \frac{C(3(x^2 + y^2) + 2z^2)}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Or in spherical coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} &= \frac{C(3(r^2 - z^2) + 2z^2)}{r} \\ &= \frac{C(3r^2 - z^2)}{r} \\ &= \frac{C(3r^2 - r^2 \cos^2 \theta)}{r} \\ &= Cr(3 - \cos^2 \theta) \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, from the charge conservation proof we see that

$$\int \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} \, dV = (\text{rate of outflow of charge from } V)$$

So we compute the rate of change of the electric charge in the spherical region bounded by $r = R$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \int \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} \, dV &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^R (Cr(3 - \cos^2 \theta)) r^2 \sin \theta \, dr d\theta d\phi \\ &= C \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^R r^3 (3 - \cos^2 \theta) \sin \theta \, dr d\theta d\phi \\ &= C \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \left[\frac{r^4}{4} \right]_0^R (3 - \cos^2 \theta) \sin \theta \, d\theta d\phi \\ &= \frac{CR^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi (2 + \sin^2 \theta) \sin \theta \, d\theta d\phi \\ &= \frac{CR^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi 2 \sin \theta + \sin^3 \theta \, d\theta d\phi \end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $3 - \cos^2 \theta = 2 + \sin^2 \theta$ hence

$$\begin{aligned}\int \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} \, dV &= \frac{CR^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi 2 \sin \theta + \sin^3 \theta \, d\theta d\phi \\&= \frac{CR^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \left[\frac{1}{12} (\cos(3\theta) - 33 \cos \theta) \right]_0^\pi d\phi \\&= \frac{CR^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{12} [(-1 + 33) - (1 - 33)] d\phi \\&= \frac{CR^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{16}{3} d\phi \\&= \frac{4CR^4}{3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \\&= \frac{8\pi}{3} CR^4\end{aligned}$$

□