

1. Consider three vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$ ,  $\mathbf{c}$  in three-dimensional space such that  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ . Define  $a, b, c$  to be the magnitudes of the vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$ ,  $\mathbf{c}$ , respectively, and let  $\alpha$  be the angle between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . Likewise,  $\beta$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$ , and  $\gamma$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{a}$ . Let  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = A\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  where  $A > 0$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  is a unit vector.

(a) Sketch the problem.

(b) What is the geometrical interpretation of  $A$  and what is its value in terms of  $a, b$  and  $\alpha$ ?

(c) Calculate  $\mathbf{c} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}}$ .

(d) Calculate  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}$ .

(e) Deduce the 'law of sines'.

See Exercise 1.3.9 and figure 1.19 on p 28 but watch out for different conventions (to force you to re-derive).

Vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  form a closed triangle loop. They are all in same plane. If  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = A\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  that means they are all orthogonal to  $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ , hence  $\mathbf{c} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = 0$ .  $A$  is the area of the parallelogram formed by  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , that is  $1/2$  the area of the  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$ ,  $\mathbf{c}$  triangle and  $A = |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = ab \sin \alpha$ . Now geometrically thinking  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = A\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ . Algebraically, using the properties of cross-product:  $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{b} \times (-\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) = -\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$ . Therefore, expressing the magnitudes of these different cross products in terms of the vector magnitudes and the sine of the angle between them, we get

$$ab \sin \alpha = bc \sin \beta = ca \sin \gamma = A$$

or, dividing by  $abc$ :

$$\frac{\sin \alpha}{c} = \frac{\sin \beta}{a} = \frac{\sin \gamma}{b} = \frac{A}{abc}.$$

This is the "law of sines" which is usually written differently (as in the book) because of different naming convention for the angles.

2. Let  $\mathbf{r}$  represent the position vector in 3D space and  $r$  its magnitude. The gradient vector operator is denoted  $\nabla$ . If  $f(r)$  is an arbitrary twice differentiable function of  $r$ , calculate the following expressions showing or stating the key steps of your reasoning

(a)  $\nabla f(r)$ : Example 1.5.5 p 41 + class notes where we deduce the answer quicker from the geometric meaning of the gradient and directional derivatives.

(b)  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{r}$ : Example 1.6.1 p 44 + class notes

(c)  $\nabla \times \nabla f(r) = \mathbf{0}$  ALWAYS even if  $f$  was a more general function of the coordinates. See formula (1.92) p 55 and discussion thereafter ("all gradients are irrotational. Note that zero in (1.92) is a mathematical identity..."). See also section 1.12 and formula (1.127). Important stuff!

(d)  $\nabla \times (f(r)\mathbf{r})$ : Example 1.7.2 p 48, also by direct application of (a) above:  $f(r)\mathbf{r} \equiv dF/dr \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \nabla F(r)$ , so  $\nabla \times (f(r)\mathbf{r}) = \nabla \times \nabla F(r) = \mathbf{0}$  by (c).

(e)  $\int_V \nabla^2 f(r) dV$ , where  $V$  is the sphere of radius  $R$  centered at the origin: This integral could be done directly by computing the volume integral using Example 1.8.1 p 54 but it is easier to use the **Divergence (Gauss) theorem**:

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} dV = \oint_S \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dS$$

for any closed volume  $V$  where  $S$  is the surface of  $V$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  is the unit normal pointing outward. Then in our case  $\int_V \nabla^2 f(r) dV = \int_V \nabla \cdot (\nabla f(r)) dV = \oint_S (\nabla f) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dS$  and, by (a),  $\nabla f(r) = df/dr \hat{\mathbf{r}}$ . Now, for any sphere centered at the origin,  $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \hat{\mathbf{r}}$ , so the integral is simply

$$\int_V \nabla^2 f(r) dV = \left. \frac{df}{dr} \right|_{r=R} \oint_S dS = 4\pi R^2 f'(R).$$

See formula (1.90) for definition of Laplacian operator:  $\nabla^2 = \nabla \cdot \nabla$ . See also exercise 1.10.2 p 70 and sections 1.12 and 1.13 on Potential theory and Gauss's law whose summary is  $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{E} = -\nabla\varphi$ , so  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = -\nabla^2\varphi$  and

$$\int_V \nabla^2\varphi dV = -\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} dV = -\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = -\int_V \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} dV. \quad (1.142)$$

The last equality is known as Gauss's law in electromagnetism. As this is true for any closed volume  $V$ , this implies  $\nabla^2\varphi = -\rho/\epsilon_0$  (eqn. 1.145, p 84). This is a *Poisson equation*. Its solution gives the electric potential  $\varphi$  if the charge density  $\rho$  is known. Poisson equations pop up in all sorts of places, in flow of an incompressible fluid for instance.

(f)  $\oint_S \mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$  where  $S$  is the surface of the sphere of radius 1 centered at  $x_c = 5$ ,  $y_c = z_c = 0$ .

By Gauss:  $\oint_S \mathbf{r} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} dV = 4\pi$  using (b) above.

(g)  $\oint_C \mathbf{r} \times d\mathbf{r}$  where  $C$  is the curve  $(x - x_0)^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ ,  $z = 0$ .

$\oint_C \mathbf{r} \times d\mathbf{r} = 2\pi ab$  which is twice the area of the ellipse. See problem 1.11.1 p 75. Also we did this in class when discussing motion of planets. See extra exercises posted on web page.

**3.** Consider the vector field  $\mathbf{v} = v(r)\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$  where  $r$  is the distance to the origin and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}$  is the unit vector in the azimuthal direction in spherical coordinates.

(a) Calculate  $\int_{NHS} \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$  where  $NHS$  is the surface of the Northern hemisphere of a sphere of radius  $R$  i.e. the surface  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = R^2$ ,  $z \geq 0$  and  $d\mathbf{S}$  is the surface element pointing out of the sphere.

(b) Calculate  $\int_{EHS} \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$  where  $EHS$  is the surface of the Eastern Hemisphere of the sphere of radius  $R$ , i.e. the surface  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = R^2$ ,  $y \geq 0$ .

(c) Calculate  $\oint_S \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$  where  $S$  is the surface of the "smoothed cube"  $x^8 + y^8 + z^8 = R^8$ .

Three direct applications of **Stokes Theorem** which says that for any orientable surface  $S$ :

$$\int_S \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \oint_C \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

where  $C$  is the curve boundary of the surface  $S$  and the orientation of the line integral and the surface element  $d\mathbf{S}$  must obey the right-hand rule (because of the definition of the curl).

Then (a)  $\int_{NHS} \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \oint_{equator} v(r)\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  but the line element along the equator is  $d\mathbf{r} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} R d\varphi$  so the integral is simply  $= 2\pi R v(R)$ .

(b)  $\int_{EHS} \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \oint_{meridian} v(r)\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  where the meridian is the reference meridian i.e. the circle  $x^2 + z^2 = R^2$  with  $y = 0$ . On any meridian  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = 0$ , so the integral is zero.

(c) The equation  $x^8 + y^8 + z^8 = R^8$  obviously "looks like" the equation of a sphere but because of the higher powers this CLOSED surface looks more like a smoothed cube (try plotting the "smoothed square"  $x^8 + y^8 = R^8$ ). In any case the key fact is that it is closed and therefore  $\oint_S \nabla \times \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = 0$ . See Exercise 1.10.1 p 70 which uses Gauss's theorem and  $\nabla \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 0$  (another important identity), also Exercise 1.11.4.

**Gauss and Stokes Theorems** are the **Fundamental theorems of Vector Calculus** relating divergence, curl, volume integral, surface integral and line integrals. There are several versions of these theorems that you can derive using special vector fields (*e.g.* try  $\mathbf{v} = v\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  in the divergence theorem). These theorems also give “physical” interpretations of divergence as the flux (or “flow”) through a closed surface normalized by volume and curl as the “circulation” of a vector field around a closed loop, normalized by area.

**4.** *Pick appropriate coordinates then specify explicit integral formulas for the area and volume of a torus (i.e. specify the variables and the bounds of integration). You may, but not do have to, compute the integrals.*

We sketched this in class the Friday before the exam. See notes for a figure. The parametrization of the torus is

$$x = (R_1 + r \cos \theta) \cos \varphi, \quad y = (R_1 + r \cos \theta) \sin \varphi, \quad z = r \sin \theta,$$

where  $0 \leq r \leq R_2$  and  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$  both run from 0 to  $2\pi$  IF  $R_1 > R_2$  which is required for a torus (otherwise it's an apple not a donut!).

The position vector is  $\mathbf{r} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}x + \hat{\mathbf{y}}y + \hat{\mathbf{z}}z$ . We need the displacement vectors

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial r} = \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cos \theta \cos \varphi + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cos \theta \sin \varphi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \sin \theta, \Rightarrow h_r = 1$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \varphi} = -\hat{\mathbf{x}}(R_1 + r \cos \theta) \sin \varphi + \hat{\mathbf{y}}(R_1 + r \cos \theta) \cos \varphi, \Rightarrow h_\varphi = R_1 + r \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \theta} = -\hat{\mathbf{x}} r \sin \theta \cos \varphi - \hat{\mathbf{y}} r \sin \theta \sin \varphi + \hat{\mathbf{z}} r \cos \theta, \Rightarrow h_\theta = r.$$

It is straightforward to verify that these vectors are orthogonal. Hence the surface element is

$$dA = \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \varphi} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \theta} \right| d\varphi d\theta = h_\varphi h_\theta d\varphi d\theta = R_2(R_1 + R_2 \cos \theta) d\varphi d\theta$$

and the volume element is

$$dV = \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial r} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \varphi} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \theta} \right| dr d\varphi d\theta = h_r h_\varphi h_\theta dr d\varphi d\theta = r(R_1 + r \cos \theta) dr d\varphi d\theta.$$

So the surface area is

$$A = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} R_2(R_1 + R_2 \cos \theta) d\varphi d\theta = 4\pi^2 R_1 R_2$$

and the volume

$$V = \int_0^{R_2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} r(R_1 + r \cos \theta) d\varphi d\theta dr = 2\pi^2 R_1 R_2^2.$$

Note that both of these formula simply corresponds to the cross-sectional perimeter  $2\pi R_2$  and area  $\pi R_2^2$  multiplied by the perimeter of the centerline of the torus  $2\pi R_1$ . This says something about the geometry of the torus, can you see what?