FW Math 321

1. If δ_{ij} is the well-known Kronecker symbol and ϵ_{ijk} is the permutation (or Levi-Civita) symbol well-known to Math 321 students, the two symbols are related by the identity (using summation convention)

$$\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{ilm} = \delta_{jl}\delta_{km} - \delta_{jm}\delta_{kl}.$$
(1)

Let φ , v_k , \boldsymbol{a} , \boldsymbol{b} be arbitrary functions of the position vector \boldsymbol{r} , calculate, justifying briefly:

(a) $\epsilon_{132} = -1$, (b) $\epsilon_{122} = 0$,

(c) This *scalar* is equal to minus itself, hence it is zero:

$$\epsilon_{ijk}\frac{\partial^2 v_k}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = \epsilon_{ijk}\frac{\partial^2 v_k}{\partial x_j \partial x_i} = \epsilon_{jik}\frac{\partial^2 v_k}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = -\epsilon_{ijk}\frac{\partial^2 v_k}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

(d) $\boldsymbol{\nabla} \times (\boldsymbol{a} \times \boldsymbol{b}) \equiv \epsilon_{ijk} \partial_j (\epsilon_{klm} a_l b_m) = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} \partial_j (a_l b_m) = \epsilon_{kij} \epsilon_{klm} \partial_j (a_l b_m)$

$$= [\delta_{il}\delta_{jm} - \delta_{im}\delta_{jl}]\partial_j(a_lb_m) = \partial_m(a_ib_m) - \partial_l(a_lb_i) = a_i(\partial_mb_m) + (b_m\partial_m)a_i - (a_l\partial_l)b_i - b_i(\partial_la_l)$$

$$\equiv \boldsymbol{a}(\boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot\boldsymbol{b}) + (\boldsymbol{b}\cdot\boldsymbol{\nabla})\boldsymbol{a} - (\boldsymbol{a}\cdot\boldsymbol{\nabla})\boldsymbol{b} - \boldsymbol{b}(\boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot\boldsymbol{a})$$

(e) show that $\nabla \cdot (\varphi \boldsymbol{a}) = (\nabla \varphi) \cdot \boldsymbol{a} + \varphi (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{a})$ using indicial notation.

$$\boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot (\varphi \boldsymbol{a}) \equiv \partial_i (\varphi a_i) = (\partial_i \varphi) a_i + \varphi (\partial_i a_i) \equiv (\boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi) \cdot \boldsymbol{a} + \varphi (\boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{a})$$

2. Let \mathbf{r} be the position vector in 3D space and r its magnitude. The gradient vector operator is denoted ∇ . If f(r) is an arbitrary twice differentiable function of r, calculate the following expressions showing or stating the key steps of your reasoning. Your writing must clearly distinguish between scalars, vectors and tensors!!

These are solved explicitly in the book, see Examples 1.6.1, 1.7.1, 1.8.1, 1.9.1 and were solved in class as well.

(a) $\nabla f(r) = (df/dr)\mathbf{r}/r$, (b) $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} = 3$, (c) $\nabla \times \nabla f(r) = 0$, (d) $\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{r}/r^3) = 0$ except at r = 0, (e) $\nabla \times (\mathbf{r}/r^3) = 0$, except at r = 0.

3. Calculate, justifying carefully,

(a) $\oint_{S} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \varphi \, dS$, where S is the closed surface surrounding a volume V where $\nabla^{2} \varphi = 5$, and \mathbf{n} is the unit outward normal to S.

and $\overset{JS}{n}$ is the unit outward normal to S. By the divergence theorem $\oint_{S} \boldsymbol{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi \, dS = \int_{V} \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\nabla} \varphi) \, dV = 5V$. The operator $\boldsymbol{\nabla}^{2} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}$ appears in many suggested exercises.

(f) $\oint_S (\mathbf{r}/r^3) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$ where S is the surface of the sphere of radius R centered at $x_c = R/2$, $y_c = z_c = 0$ and $d\mathbf{S} \equiv \mathbf{n} dS$ is the surface element with \mathbf{n} the unit outward normal. This surface encloses the origin where the \mathbf{r}/r^3 diverges and its divergence is not defined. So we cannot directly use the divergence/Gauss theorem. But we can use it in a domain that

excludes the origin, as done in class and in section 1.14. The result is "Gauss's Law" and the intergal is 4π . Physically, this is the flux due to a unit "point charge" at r = 0.

(g)
$$\oint_{\mathcal{C}} (\mathbf{r}/r^3) \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$
 where \mathcal{C} is the circle of radius 4 centered at $x = 2, y = 1$
By Stokes theorem and 2 (e), $\oint_{\mathcal{C}} (\mathbf{r}/r^3) \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_A \left(\mathbf{\nabla} \times \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3} \right) \cdot \mathbf{n} dA = 0.$

4. Find the Taylor series of $1/(1 + x^2)$ about x = 0 and specify its domain of convergence (i.e. the domain of x where the series converges). Justify.

This is Math 221/222 material. We reviewed the key ideas in class.

$$\frac{1}{1+x^2} = 1 - x^2 + x^4 - x^6 + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n}$$

This series converges if |x| < 1, and now that you've studied functions of one complex variable, you understand more deeply why this restriction occurs.

5. Show that

$$\sin(n+1)\theta = \sin\theta P_n(\cos\theta),\tag{2}$$

where $P_n(x)$ is a polynomial of degree n (integer) in x and find $P_n(x)$ explicitly. ($P_n(x)$ is the Chebyshev polynomial of the second kind.).

This is suggested problem 6.1.6. See Example 6.1.1 "De Moivre's formula" for the basic idea and exercise 6.1.6 for the answer.

$$e^{in\theta} = (e^{i\theta})^n \Leftrightarrow \cos n\theta + i\sin n\theta = (\cos \theta + i\sin \theta)^n$$

The binomial formula gives that

$$(a+b)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C_n^k a^k b^{n-k}, \quad \text{where } C_n^k \equiv \left(\begin{array}{c} n\\ k \end{array}\right) = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}.$$

The C_n^k are called the binomial coefficients. Using that formula, we get

$$\cos n\theta + i\sin n\theta = (\cos \theta + i\sin \theta)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C_n^k i^k (\sin \theta)^k (\cos \theta)^{n-k}.$$

So $\sin n\theta$ is equal to the imaginary part of that sum. To extract the imaginary part we need only consider k = 2l + 1 odd because $i^{2l+1} = (-1)^l i$ and any even power of i is real. Let n = 2M or n = 2M + 1 (depending on whether n is even or odd), then

$$\sin n\theta = \sin \theta \sum_{l=0}^{M} C_n^{2l+1} (-1)^l (\sin \theta)^{2l} (\cos \theta)^{n-2l-1}.$$

The sum can be rewritten as a polynomial in $\cos \theta$ because $\sin^2 \theta = 1 - \cos^2 \theta$, so

$$\sin n\theta = \sin \theta \sum_{l=0}^{M} C_n^{2l+1} (-1)^l (1 - \cos^2 \theta)^l (\cos \theta)^{n-2l-1}.$$