

The Gradient

Useful information: In spherical coordinates,

$$\hat{\mathbf{t}} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_r \frac{dr}{ds} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{\theta} r \frac{d\theta}{ds} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{\phi} r \sin \theta \frac{d\phi}{ds}.$$

(b) Calculate the flux of the dipole field through a sphere of radius R centered at the origin.

(c) What is the flux of the dipole field over *any* closed surface which does not pass through the origin?

IV-7 Here is a "proof" that there is no such thing as magnetism. One of Maxwell's equations tells us that

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0,$$

where \mathbf{B} is any magnetic field. Then using the divergence theorem, we find

$$\iint_S \mathbf{B} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, dS = \iiint_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} \, dV = 0.$$

Because \mathbf{B} has zero divergence, we know (see Problem III-24) there exists a vector function, call it \mathbf{A} , such that

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}.$$

Combining these last two equations, we get

$$\iint_S \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \, dS = 0.$$

Next we apply Stokes' theorem and the above result to find

$$\oint_C \mathbf{A} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{t}} \, ds = \iint_S \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \, dS = 0.$$

Thus we have shown that the circulation of \mathbf{A} is path-independent. It follows that we can write $\mathbf{A} = \nabla\psi$ where ψ is some scalar function. Since the curl of the gradient of a function is zero, we arrive at the remarkable fact that

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \nabla\psi = 0;$$

that is, all magnetic fields are zero! Where did we go wrong? [Taken from G. Arfken, *Amer. J. Phys.*, **27**, 526 (1959).]

IV-8 Fick's law states that in certain diffusion processes the current density \mathbf{J} is proportional to the negative of the gradient of the density ρ ; that is, $\mathbf{J} = -k\nabla\rho$, where k is a positive constant. If a substance of density $\rho(x, y, z, t)$ and velocity $\mathbf{v}(x, y, z, t)$ diffuses according to Fick's law, show that the flow is *irrotational* (that is, $\nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 0$).

IV-9 (a) A substance diffuses according to Fick's law (see Problem IV-8). Assuming the diffusing matter is conserved, derive the

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diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = k \nabla^2 \rho.$$

(b) Bacteria of density ρ diffuse in a medium according to Fick's law and reproduce at a rate $\lambda \rho$ per unit volume (λ is a positive constant). Show that

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = k \nabla^2 \rho + \lambda \rho.$$

IV-10 (a) A fluid is said to be *incompressible* if its density ρ is a constant (that is, is independent of x , y , z , and t). Use the continuity equation to show that the velocity \mathbf{v} of an incompressible fluid satisfies the equation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$.

(b) If $\nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 0$, the fluid flow is said to be *irrotational*. Show that for an incompressible fluid undergoing irrotational flow,

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0,$$

where ϕ , a scalar function called the *velocity potential*, is so defined that $\mathbf{v} = \nabla \phi$.

IV-11 The heat Q in a body of volume V is given by

$$Q = c \iiint_V T \rho \, dV,$$

where c is a constant called the specific heat of the body, and $T(x, y, z, t)$ and $\rho(x, y, z)$ are, respectively, the temperature and density of the body. (Note that we are assuming the density to be independent of time.) The rate at which heat flows through S , the bounding surface of the body, is given by

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = k \iint_S \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \nabla T \, dS,$$

where k (assumed constant) is the thermal conductivity of the body, and the integral is taken over the surface S bounding the body. Use these facts to derive the heat flow equation

$$\nabla^2 T = \alpha \frac{\partial T}{\partial t},$$

where $\alpha = cp/k$.

IV-12 In nonrelativistic quantum mechanics a particle of mass m moving in a potential $V(x, y, z)$ is described by the Schrödinger equation

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + V\psi = i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}.$$

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where \hbar is Planck's constant divided by 2π and $\psi(x, y, z, t)$, which is complex, is called the wave function. The quantity $\rho = \psi^*\psi$ is interpreted as the probability density.

(a) Use the Schrödinger equation to derive an equation of the form

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$$

and obtain thereby an expression for \mathbf{J} in terms of ψ , ψ^* , m , and \hbar .

(b) Give an interpretation of \mathbf{J} and of the equation derived in (a).

IV-13 (a) Find the charge density $\rho(x, y, z)$ which produces the electric field

$$\mathbf{E} = g(\mathbf{i}x + \mathbf{j}y + \mathbf{k}z),$$

where g is a constant.

(b) Find an electrostatic potential Φ such that $-\nabla\Phi$ is the field \mathbf{E} given in (a).

(c) Verify that $\nabla^2\Phi = -\rho/\epsilon_0$.

IV-14 (a) Starting with the divergence theorem, derive the equation

$$\iint_S \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (u\nabla v) dS = \iiint_V [u\nabla^2 v + (\nabla u) \cdot (\nabla v)] dV,$$

where u and v are scalar functions of position and S is a closed surface enclosing the volume V . This is sometimes called the first form of Green's theorem.

(b) If $\nabla^2 u = 0$ use the first form of Green's theorem to show that

$$\iint_S \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (u\nabla u) dS = \iiint_V |\nabla u|^2 dV,$$

where $|\nabla u|^2 = (\nabla u) \cdot (\nabla u)$.

(c) Use the first form of Green's theorem to show that

$$\iint_S \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (u\nabla v - v\nabla u) dS = \iiint_V (u\nabla^2 v - v\nabla^2 u) dV.$$

This is the second form of Green's theorem.

IV-15 An equation of the form

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2},$$

where f is a differentiable function of position and time, is called a wave equation. It describes a wave propagating in space with velocity v . Use Maxwell's equations (Problem III-20) to show that in the absence of charges and currents (that is, ρ and \mathbf{J} both zero), all three