

MATH20901 Multivariable Calculus: Solutions 2 ¹

1. (a) $\delta_{ij}\delta_{jk}\delta_{ki} = \delta_{ij}\delta_{ji} = \delta_{jj} = 3$.

$\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{ijk}$ is the sum of the squares of all 27 values of ϵ_{ijk} . So the answer is 6. Or you could answer using the double product result given in the notes:

$$\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{ijk} = \delta_{jj}\delta_{kk} - \delta_{jk}\delta_{kj} = 3 \cdot 3 - \delta_{jj} = 9 - 3 = 6.$$

- (b) $(AB^TC)_{ij} = A_{il}B_{kl}C_{kj} \equiv \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{k=1}^q A_{il}B_{lk}^TC_{kj}$ and $B_{lk}^T = B_{kl}$, observing that A has p columns, and C has q rows.

2. Part (i) has a geometric interpretation: $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$ is the volume of the parallelepiped with edges formed by the vectors $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$. As such $\mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a})$ is the same volume, although the ordering of the vectors is important as the result can be negated if the ordering of the cross-product is reversed – so it's not quite so trivial. Mathematically, we can do this:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = a_i \epsilon_{ijk} b_j c_k = b_j \epsilon_{jki} c_k a_i = \mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a})$$

after rotating the suffices of ϵ_{ijk} and ordering the elements of the vectors in the correct manner.

For part (ii), we have to prove a vector identity and so we consider the i th component:

$$\begin{aligned} [(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \times (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})]_i &= \epsilon_{ijk} [\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}]_j [\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c}]_k = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{jlm} a_l b_m \epsilon_{krs} a_r c_s \\ &= \epsilon_{jki} \epsilon_{jlm} a_l b_m \epsilon_{krs} a_r c_s \\ &= (\delta_{kl} \delta_{im} - \delta_{km} \delta_{il}) a_l b_m \epsilon_{krs} a_r c_s \\ &= (a_k b_i \epsilon_{krs} a_r c_s) - (a_i b_k \epsilon_{krs} a_r c_s) \\ &= b_i (\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})) - a_i (\mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})) \end{aligned}$$

The first term on the right-hand side is zero (standard result for vectors) and the second is the i th component of $-(\mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})) \mathbf{a}$, which we can write as $(\mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a})) \mathbf{a}$.

3. (a) $\nabla f(\mathbf{r}) = (-y \sin(xy), -x \sin(xy) - z \sin(yz), -y \sin(yz))$. So

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \nabla f &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \partial_x & \partial_y & \partial_z \\ -y \sin(xy) & -x \sin(xy) - z \sin(yz) & -y \sin(yz) \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (-\sin(yz) - yz \cos(yz) + \sin(yz) + yz \cos(yz)) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \dots = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Has to be so, as proved in notes for any f .

- (b) $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \sin z + z - \sin z = z$.

(c)

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \partial_x & \partial_y & \partial_z \\ ayz & bzx & cxy \end{vmatrix} = ((c-b)x, (a-c)y, (b-a)z).$$

Then $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) = (c-b) + (a-c) + (b-a) = 0$ as required from the proof in the notes.

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4. (a) Here $f = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$, $\mathbf{r} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ so $f = a_j x_j$ and

$$[\nabla f]_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(a_j x_j) = a_j \delta_{ij} = a_i; \text{ thus } \nabla f(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{a}.$$

- (b) First, $r = |\mathbf{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ so $\nabla r = (x, y, z)/r = \mathbf{r}/r$. Next

$$\mathbf{v} = \nabla r^n = n r^{n-1} \nabla r = n r^{n-2} \mathbf{r}$$

Continuing, we have

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(n x_i r^{n-2}) = n \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_i} r^{n-2} + n x_i ((n-2) x_i r^{n-4}) = 3n r^{n-2} + n(n-2) r^2 r^{n-4}$$

after using the first differentiation result again for the second term of the product. So

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = n(n+1) r^{n-2}$$

which vanishes for $n = 0$ and $n = -1$, provided $r \neq 0$. We had to expect that $n = 0$ was one solution as $r^0 = 1$.

- (c) Here $\mathbf{v} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$, $\boldsymbol{\omega} = (\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$ and $\mathbf{r} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$. The i th component of the curl is

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla \times \mathbf{v}]_i &= \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} v_k = \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \epsilon_{klm} \omega_l x_m = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} \omega_l \frac{\partial x_m}{\partial x_j} = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} \omega_l \delta_{jm} = \epsilon_{imk} \epsilon_{klm} \omega_l \\ &= \epsilon_{kim} \epsilon_{klm} \omega_l = (\delta_{il} \delta_{mm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{ml}) \omega_l = (3\delta_{il} - \delta_{il}) \omega_l = 2\omega_i. \end{aligned}$$

So we have $\nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 2\boldsymbol{\omega}$.

5. (a)(i) Similar to 4(c) above, but we also have $\nabla r = \mathbf{r}/r$ or

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x_i} = \frac{x_i}{r}$$

The i component is

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla \times (\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{a} f(r))]_i &= \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \epsilon_{klm} x_l a_m f(r) = \epsilon_{kij} \epsilon_{klm} \left(\frac{\partial x_l}{\partial x_j} a_m f(r) + x_l a_m \frac{x_j}{r} f'(r) \right) \\ &= \epsilon_{kij} \epsilon_{klm} \left(\delta_{lj} a_m f(r) + a_m \frac{x_l x_j}{r} f'(r) \right) \\ &= (\delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}) \left(\delta_{lj} a_m f(r) + a_m \frac{x_l x_j}{r} f'(r) \right) \\ &= a_i f(r) - \delta_{jj} a_i f(r) + a_j \frac{x_i x_j}{r} f'(r) - a_i \frac{x_j^2}{r} f'(r) \\ &= \left[-\mathbf{a}(2f(r) + r f'(r)) + \mathbf{r} \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{r} f'(r) \right]_i \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{a} f(r)) = -\mathbf{a}(2f(r) + r f'(r)) + \mathbf{r} \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{r} f'(r).$$

- (a)(ii) Same tricks as above, slightly easier now

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a} f(r) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (a_i f(r)) = a_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} = a_i \frac{x_i}{r} f'(r)$$

using (a)(i). So $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}f(r) = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{r} f'(r)$.

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{u} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{u})]_i &= \epsilon_{ijk} u_j \epsilon_{klm} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} u_m = (\delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}) u_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} u_m \\ &= u_m \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u_m - u_l \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} u_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{1}{2} u_m^2 \right) - u_l \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} u_i = \left(\frac{1}{2} \nabla u^2 - [\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla] \mathbf{u} \right)_i, \end{aligned}$$

which is the i th component of $\mathbf{u} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \nabla(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}) - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}$.

6. (a) $\nabla \cdot (f\mathbf{v}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (f v_i) = f \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i} + v_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} = f \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f$

(b) This is just part (a) with $\mathbf{v} = \nabla g$ and the only thing to note here is that $\nabla \cdot \nabla g = \Delta g$, the Laplacian of g .

(c) Take the i th component of the LHS:

$$[\nabla \times (f\mathbf{v})]_i = \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (f v_k) = \epsilon_{ijk} f \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_j} + \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} v_k = f [\nabla \times \mathbf{v}]_i + [\nabla f \times \mathbf{v}]_i$$

7. On the LHS if you switch over \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} , by the definition of the cross product you will introduce a minus sign. However the RHS is symmetric in \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} and so switching them over will give the same result. So it cannot be true as stated. Here's the derivation.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\epsilon_{ijk} u_j v_k) = \epsilon_{ijk} \left(u_j \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} + v_k \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \\ &= -u_j \epsilon_{jik} \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} + v_k \epsilon_{kij} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \\ &= -\mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{v} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \end{aligned}$$

In the above we have used the cyclic definition of ϵ_{ijk} .

8. Similar to above

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v})]_i &= \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\epsilon_{klm} u_l v_m) = \epsilon_{kij} \epsilon_{klm} \left(u_l \frac{\partial v_m}{\partial x_j} + v_m \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial x_j} \right) \\ &= (\delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}) \left(u_l \frac{\partial v_m}{\partial x_j} + v_m \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial x_j} \right) = u_i \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_j} + v_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} - u_j \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j} - v_i \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_j} \\ &= (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) u_i + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) u_i - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) v_i - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) v_i \end{aligned}$$

So we match up each suffix to give the vector result

9. (a) Here $\mathbf{F} = -\rho g \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \nabla \phi$. So

$$\phi_x = 0, \quad \phi_y = 0, \quad \phi_z = -\rho g$$

Integrating each up gives $\phi(x, y, z) = f_1(y, z)$, $\phi(x, y, z) = f_2(x, z)$ and $\phi(x, y, z) = -\rho g z + f_3(x, y)$ where f_1, f_2, f_3 are arbitrary functions. In fact, the only way this can resolve itself is if $f_1 = f_2 = f_3 = C$ a constant. So, in general $\phi = -\rho g z + C$.

(b) You do this in Fluids 3. We have

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p$$

after using part (a). Using Q3(b) we have

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \nabla(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{u} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p$$

Taking the curl, noting that $\nabla \times \nabla f = 0$ for any scalar f , and defining $\boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}$ we have

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}) = 0$$

Now using Q6, we can write

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} - (\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega}) \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \boldsymbol{\omega} - (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{\omega} = 0$$

Finally, since $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$ and $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{u} = 0$, we can write

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{\omega} = (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}$$

(c) If $\mathbf{u} = (u_1(x, y), u_2(x, y), 0)$, then $\boldsymbol{\omega} = (\partial_x u_2 - \partial_y u_1) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$ and both $(\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = 0$ and $(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{\omega} = 0$. Which means that $\partial_t \boldsymbol{\omega} = 0$ and so $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ is constant.

10. Using result (i) in the question we can write Navier's equation as

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}}{\partial t^2} = (\lambda + 2\mu) \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - \mu \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{u})$$

Now taking the divergence of this and using result (iii) on the last term to eliminate it gives

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) = (\lambda + 2\mu) \Delta(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})$$

and letting $\phi = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$ and $c_1^2 = (\lambda + 2\mu)/\rho$ we have the set equation.

Now take the curl and let $\mathbf{H} = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}$ we can eliminate the first term on the RHS to leave

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \mathbf{H} = \mu \nabla \times \Delta \mathbf{u} = -\mu \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{H})$$

once results (i), (ii) are used. We need one more result, given in §2.3.1 of the notes

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{H}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{H}) - \Delta \mathbf{H}$$

and since $\mathbf{H} = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}$ the first term is zero. Hence we have

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \mathbf{H} = \mu \Delta \mathbf{H}$$

as required with $c_2^2 = \mu/\rho$.

The reduction of Navier's equation to these two decoupled equations is very important in the study of Seismology as they represent *wave equations* for the dilation (or compressible) and rotational components of displacements in a solid. The factors c_1 and c_2 are *wave speeds* (see APDE2) and clearly $c_1 > c_2$. This means compression waves travel faster than rotational waves. In Seismology the two waves are called P and S waves – the P is for primary (because they arrive first) and the S for secondary.