

Assignment VII, PHYS 272 (MAP)
Fall 2014
Due 10/24/14 at start of class

1. Let $\vec{H} = (2xy - z^3)\hat{x} + x^2\hat{y} + (\alpha xz^2 - 1)\hat{z}$.

- a) If \vec{H} is a conservative vector field, what must α be?
- b) Using the value of α found in part (a), calculate:

$$\int_{\vec{P}_1}^{\vec{P}_2} \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{\ell}$$

if $\vec{P}_1 = \vec{0}$ and $\vec{P}_2 = \hat{x} + 2\hat{y} + 3\hat{z}$. (Note; if you've done part (a) right, this shouldn't depend on your path. A good check on part (a) would be to do this via two different routes and see if you come up with the same thing).

- c) Using the value of α found in part (a), find ϕ if $\vec{H} = \vec{\nabla}\phi$.

2. Let us define:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a} &= (r \cos \theta)\hat{r} + (r \sin \theta)\hat{\theta} + (3r \sin \theta \cos \phi)\hat{\phi} \\ \vec{b} &= s(3 + \sin^2 \phi)\hat{s} + s \sin \phi \cos \phi \hat{\phi} + 3z^2\hat{z}\end{aligned}$$

(If it wasn't obvious from context or the variables used, \vec{a} is described in spherical coordinates, and \vec{b} is described in cylindrical coordinates). Find the following:

- a) The divergence of \vec{a} .
 - b) The curl of \vec{a} .
 - c) The divergence of \vec{b} .
 - d) The curl of \vec{b} .
3. Calculate $\oiint \vec{L} \cdot d\vec{a}$ for $\vec{L} = x \cos^2 y \hat{x} + xz \hat{y} + z \sin^2 y \hat{z}$ over the surface of a sphere with center at the origin and radius 3.
4. Given $\varphi = xy + yz + z \sin x$, find:
- a) $\vec{\nabla}\varphi$
 - b) Evaluate $\vec{\nabla}\varphi$ at $-3\hat{y} + \hat{z}$.

5. Calculate $\oint \vec{M} \cdot d\vec{\ell}$ around the boundary of the square with vertices $\langle 1, 0 \rangle$, $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$, $\langle -1, 0 \rangle$, $\langle 0, -1 \rangle$ if $\vec{M} = x^2\hat{x} + 3x\hat{y}$.
6. What is wrong with the following “proof” that magnetic fields do not exist?

By electromagnetic theory, $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ and $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$. (This part is totally legitimate; the error in the proof is not based on the previous sentence). Using the divergence theorem, we can write:

$$\iiint (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}) dV = 0 = \oiint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{a}$$

However, if we then substitute in $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$ we can use Stokes’ theorem to write:

$$\oiint (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) d\vec{a} = \oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

Since $\oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$, we know that \vec{A} is conservative, or $\vec{A} = \vec{\nabla}\phi$ for some scalar function ϕ . Then we have $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla}\phi) = 0$, implying $\vec{B} = 0$. (Note – this “proof” is wrong. Magnetic fields do exist! The error is somewhere in the Mathematical argument above; detailed knowledge of E&M is not necessary.)

7. Let x be a function of t .
- If the acceleration $a = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} \equiv \ddot{x} = A \sin(\omega t)$ for some constants A and ω , what is the solution for $x(t)$?
 - The above solution should have two arbitrary constants besides A and ω . If \dot{x} at $t = 0$ is 0 and x at $t = 0$ is -3, what is the solution for $x(t)$?
8. The differential equation for a particle moving vertically under the presence of air-resistance can be written as:

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = mg - \beta v$$

With β some constant associated with the physical properties of the system.

- What is the steady-state value (e.g. free-fall speed) of this system? (Hint...what does steady-state mean in terms of v ?)
- If a particle of mass m is dropped from rest, find $v(t)$. (In other words, solve this differential equation under the initial condition $v(t = 0) = 0$). A change of variable may be helpful.

9. A spherical drop of an unknown airborne liquid is known to grow at a rate proportional to its surface area, e.g.:

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \alpha(4\pi r^2)$$

with m the mass of the drop and the proportionality constant α unknown. The mass of the drop is equal to its volume multiplied by a constant (known) mass density ρ_o . If the spherical drop originally has a radius of $20 \mu\text{m}$ and evaporates to a radius of $10 \mu\text{m}$ after 7 minutes, how long will/does it take for the radius of the initially $20 \mu\text{m}$ drop to evaporate down to a sphere with a $2 \mu\text{m}$ radius?

10. A spherical ball at the origin of radius R has, enclosed within it, a mass density that follows the relationship $\rho(r, \theta) = 3ar^3 \cos^2(\theta)$. (Obviously, this relationship is only valid for $r < R$, since – for $r > R$ – we’re not talking about the “innards” of the ball anymore). For a hypothetical ball of radius r centered at the origin, what would be the mass enclosed? (r could, in principle, be smaller than or larger than R ; your answer should be a piecewise defined function of the type:

$$m(r) = \begin{cases} m_1(r) & r < R \\ m_2(r) & r > R \end{cases}$$

Your task here is to find $m_1(r)$ and $m_2(r)$. (Note, dV in spherical coordinates is NOT $drd\theta d\phi$, but rather $r^2 \sin\theta drd\theta d\phi$). Note also, don’t read anything into this – this doesn’t totally fit into this section of the class, but it doesn’t really fit anywhere else, either – but people have always struggled with doing this sort of thing in E&M and I want you to have an advantage when you get to that class.