

Physics 301/571: Electromagnetic Theory I

Read: Griffiths chapter 1.1,1.2

“G” refers to Griffiths’ book.

Problems with stars are not for credit and will NOT be graded.

Homework 1

Exercise 1 (G 1.3)

Find the angle between the body diagonals of a cube.

Exercise 2 (G 1.11)

Find the gradients of the following functions:

- a) $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^3 + z^4$,
- b) $f(x, y, z) = x^2 y^3 z^4$,
- c) $f(x, y, z) = e^x \sin(y) \ln(z)$.

Exercise 3

Let $\vec{r} = (x, y, z)$ be a position vector and r its magnitude. Calculate

- a) $\vec{\nabla} x$,
- b) $\vec{\nabla}(x + y + z)$,
- c) $\vec{\nabla}(r^3)$,
- d) $\vec{\nabla}(1/r)$,
- e) $\vec{\nabla}(\tan^{-1}(y/x))$,

Exercise 4 (G 1.15)

Calculate the divergence of the following vector functions:

- a) $\vec{v}_a = x^2 \hat{x} + 3xz^2 \hat{y} - 2xz \hat{z}$,
- b) $\vec{v}_b = xy \hat{x} + 2yz \hat{y} + 3zx \hat{z}$,
- c) $\vec{v}_c = y^2 \hat{x} + (2xy + z^2) \hat{y} + 2yz \hat{z}$,

Exercise 5

Compute the divergence of the following vector function

$$\vec{v} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^n}.$$

What happens if $n = 2$?

Exercise 6 (G 1.18)

Calculate the curls of the vector functions in the Exercise 4.

*Exercise 7

Calculate the curl of the vector field

$$\vec{A} = \frac{1}{2}B(\rho) (\hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \vec{\rho}),$$

where $\vec{\rho} = (x, y, 0)$, $\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, and $B(\rho)$ is some function. What happens if $B = \text{const}$?