



Mathematical Modelling III

Examples #1

Review of vectors & tensors

1. (a) If \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are orthogonal constant vectors, solve the equation

$$\mathbf{X} \wedge \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b}. \quad (1)$$

- (b) Given four constant vectors $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d}$ such that $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \neq 0$, solve the equation

$$\mathbf{X} \wedge \mathbf{a} + (\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{d},$$

by reducing it to (1).

2. Show that the general solution of the equation

$$\alpha \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} \wedge \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b},$$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} are given constant vectors, is provided by the formula

$$\mathbf{X} = \frac{\alpha^2 \mathbf{b} + (\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a})\mathbf{a} + \alpha(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b})}{\alpha(\alpha^2 + |\mathbf{a}|^2)}.$$

[Hint: none of the above questions requires anything advanced; just use the fact that the vector product of two parallel vectors is zero, and/or the dot product of two orthogonal vectors is also zero, etc.]

3. Use basic properties of *triple scalar products* to show that

$$(\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{c} \wedge \mathbf{d}) = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} & \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} & \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{d} \end{vmatrix}.$$

Hence, or otherwise, establish the important identity

$$\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{ipq} = \delta_{jp}\delta_{kq} - \delta_{jq}\delta_{kp}. \quad (2)$$



4. Show that

$$(\mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{c}) \wedge (\mathbf{c} \wedge \mathbf{a}) = [\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}] \mathbf{c},$$

and deduce that

$$[\mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c} \wedge \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{b}] = [\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}]^2.$$

[Hint: use the identity $\mathbf{u} \wedge (\mathbf{v} \wedge \mathbf{w}) = (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w})\mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{w}$, etc]

5. Prove the following gradient formulae

$$(i) \quad \nabla \otimes (\phi \mathbf{u}) = (\nabla \phi) \otimes \mathbf{u} + \phi (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}),$$

$$(ii) \quad \nabla (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) = (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} + (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{u},$$

$$(iii) \quad \nabla \otimes (\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{u}) = (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{T}) \cdot \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{T}^T,$$

$$(iv) \quad \nabla (\phi \varphi) = (\nabla \phi) \varphi + \phi (\nabla \varphi),$$

where ϕ, φ are a scalar field, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} are vector fields, and \mathbf{T} is a second-order tensor field.

[Hint: use Cartesian coordinates to evaluate the component form of the left- and right-hand sides, and then compare the results, etc.]

6. Using the above formulae obtain the following results, where \mathbf{r} is the position vector with respect to the origin, $r = |\mathbf{r}|$, and \mathbf{b} is a constant unit vector,

$$\nabla (r^n) = nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r},$$

$$\nabla \otimes (r^n \mathbf{r}) = r^n \mathbf{I} + nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r},$$

$$\nabla \otimes (r^n \mathbf{b}) = nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{b},$$

$$\nabla \otimes (r^n \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = r^n \mathbf{b} + nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b},$$

$$\nabla \otimes (r^n \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = r^n [\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b} \otimes \mathbf{r}] + nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}.$$

7. Prove the following divergence formulae

$$(i) \quad \nabla \cdot (\phi \mathbf{u}) = (\nabla \phi) \cdot \mathbf{u} + \phi (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}),$$

$$(ii) \quad \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{v}) = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{v}),$$

$$(iii) \quad \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{u}) = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}) \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{T} : (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}),$$

$$(iv) \quad \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{v}) = (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{v}),$$

where ϕ is a scalar field, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} are vector fields, and \mathbf{T} is a second-order tensor field.

[Hint: same as above, etc.]



8. Practice the divergence formulae by establishing formulae

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot (r^n \mathbf{r}) &= (n+3)r^n, \\ \nabla \cdot (r^n \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r}) &= (n+4)r^n \mathbf{r}, \\ \nabla \cdot (r^n \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}) &= r^n \mathbf{b} + nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}, \\ \nabla \cdot [r^n (\mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b} \otimes \mathbf{r})] &= (n+4)r^n \mathbf{b} + nr^{n-2} \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}, \\ \nabla \cdot (r^n \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{b}) &= (n+5)r^n \mathbf{r} \otimes \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}.\end{aligned}$$

9. Prove the following curl formulae

$$\begin{aligned}\text{(i)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\phi \mathbf{u}) &= (\nabla \phi) \wedge \mathbf{u} + \phi (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u}), \\ \text{(ii)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{v}) &= (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u}) \otimes \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u} \wedge (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{v}), \\ \text{(iii)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\mathbf{u} \wedge \mathbf{v}) &= \mathbf{u} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{v} \cdot (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}), \\ \text{(iv)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u}) &= \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}, \\ \text{(v)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\nabla \phi) &= \mathbf{0},\end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{v} are vector fields and ϕ is a scalar field.

10. Show that if \mathbf{u} is a vector field and \mathbf{I} the usual second-order identity tensor, then

$$\begin{aligned}\text{(a)} \quad \mathbf{I} \wedge (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u}) &= \mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla - \nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}, \\ \text{(b)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\mathbf{I} \wedge \mathbf{u}) &= \mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla - \mathbf{I} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}), \\ \text{(c)} \quad \nabla \cdot (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u}) &= \mathbf{0}, \\ \text{(d)} \quad \nabla \wedge (\nabla \otimes \mathbf{u}) &= \mathbf{0}.\end{aligned}$$

[Hint: use the definition of the curl and the vector product in conjunction with formula (2).]

Hence, or otherwise, show that if

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla + \nabla \otimes \mathbf{u})$$

then $\nabla \wedge (\mathbf{E} \wedge \nabla) = \mathbf{0}$.

11. The *double vector product* of two tensors is defined by

$$(\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b}) \times \times (\mathbf{c} \otimes \mathbf{d}) \equiv (\mathbf{a} \wedge \mathbf{c}) \otimes (\mathbf{b} \wedge \mathbf{d}).$$

Show that if \mathbf{A} is a symmetric second-order tensor field, then

$$\mathbf{I} \times \times [\nabla \wedge (\mathbf{A} \wedge \nabla)] = \nabla \otimes (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) \otimes \nabla - \nabla \otimes (\nabla |\mathbf{A}|) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A},$$



where $|\mathbf{A}| \equiv \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$ is the first principal invariant of \mathbf{A} .

[Warning: This is a fairly difficult question.]

12. Let \mathbf{u} be a vector field and $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I} + k(\mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v})$, where $k \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ are constants. Show that

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{u}) &= \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} + k\mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla) \cdot \mathbf{v}, \\ \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{u}) &= \nabla \wedge \mathbf{u} - k\mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla) \wedge \mathbf{v}.\end{aligned}$$

13. (a) If f is a scalar field, then

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_z;$$

- (b) The gradient of the vector field \mathbf{u} is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla &= \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r \otimes \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \theta} - u_\theta \right) \mathbf{e}_r \otimes \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_r \otimes \mathbf{e}_z \\ &+ \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_\theta \otimes \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial \theta} + u_r \right) \mathbf{e}_\theta \otimes \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_\theta \otimes \mathbf{e}_z \\ &+ \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_z \otimes \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_z \otimes \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_z \otimes \mathbf{e}_z.\end{aligned}$$

14. Show that the divergence of a second-order tensor field \mathbf{T} with respect to $\{\mathbf{e}_r, \mathbf{e}_\theta, \mathbf{e}_z\}$ is a vector field of the form,

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T} = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_r \mathbf{e}_r + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_z \mathbf{e}_z,$$

whose components are given by

$$\begin{aligned}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_r &= \frac{\partial T_{rr}}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{r\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial T_{rz}}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{r}(T_{rr} - T_{\theta\theta}), \\ (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_\theta &= \frac{\partial T_{\theta r}}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{\theta\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial T_{\theta z}}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{r}(T_{r\theta} + T_{\theta r}), \\ (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T})_z &= \frac{\partial T_{zr}}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T_{z\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial T_{zz}}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{r} T_{zr}.\end{aligned}$$

15. The Laplacian of a field (scalar, vector, tensor) is defined to be the divergence of its gradient, and it is usually denoted by $\nabla^2 \equiv \nabla \cdot \nabla$ or Δ . Show that for a scalar field f expressed in cylindrical coordinates the following formula holds

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}.$$



For a vector field \mathbf{u} the counterpart of the above formula is

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} = (\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_r \mathbf{e}_r + (\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta + (\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_z \mathbf{e}_z,$$

where

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_r = \nabla^2 u_r - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial \theta} - \frac{1}{r^2} u_r,$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_\theta = \nabla^2 u_\theta + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{1}{r^2} u_\theta,$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_z = \nabla^2 u_z.$$

16. For a cylindrical coordinate system (r, θ, z) obtain the component form for the curl,

$$\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u} = (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u})_r \mathbf{e}_r + (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u})_\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta + (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u})_z \mathbf{e}_z,$$

where

$$(\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u})_r = \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial \theta} - r \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial z} \right),$$

$$(\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u})_\theta = \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial r},$$

$$(\nabla \wedge \mathbf{u})_z = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r u_\theta) - \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \theta} \right].$$

17. The components of a vector field \mathbf{v} with regard to spherical polar coordinates (r, θ, φ) are (u, v, w) . Write down the expression for the components of $\nabla \wedge \mathbf{v}$ in terms of u, v , and w .

If

$$u = v = \frac{\partial w}{\partial \varphi} \equiv 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \wedge (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0},$$

show that

$$r^2 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial r^2} + 2r \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial \theta} + w \cot \theta \right) = 0.$$

By using a solution with separable variables of the form $f(r) \sin \theta$, find the general expression for $f(r)$.

18. (a) Consider the **bi-harmonic equation** in cylindrical polar coordinates (r, θ, z) ,

$$\nabla^4 \Phi = 0,$$

where $\nabla^4(\bullet) = \nabla^2(\nabla^2(\bullet))$ is the **bi-Laplacian**,

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2},$$

and $\Phi = \Phi(r, \theta)$.



- (b) Check that the following functions can be used as particular solutions of the above equation,

$$C\theta, \quad Cr^2\theta, \quad Cr\theta \sin \theta, \quad Cr\theta \cos \theta, \quad (C \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Furthermore, verify that $\Phi(r, \theta) = f_n(r) \cos n\theta$ and $\Phi(r, \theta) = f_n(r) \sin n\theta$ are enjoying the same property, where

$$f_0(r) = a_0r^2 + b_0r^2 \log r + c_0 + d_0 \log r,$$

$$f_1(r) = a_1r^3 + b_1r + c_1r \log r + d_1r^{-1},$$

$$f_n(r) = a_nr^{n+2} + b_nr^n + c_nr^{-n+2} + d_nr^{-n}, \quad (n > 1),$$

and $a_n, b_n, c_n, d_n \in \mathbb{R}$.

19. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded domain and $\partial\Omega$ its boundary curve. Show that if $u, v : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are two sufficiently smooth functions (and $\partial\Omega$ is assumed to be regular) then

$$\int_{\Omega} (u\nabla^2 v + \nabla u \cdot \nabla v) \, dA = \oint_{\partial\Omega} u \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} \, dS,$$

where

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial n} := \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla v$$

represents the *normal derivative* of v .

[This FUNDAMENTAL result is known as **Green's Theorem**. It can be written in a number of different ways -- we shall have the opportunity to see this later on.]

20. Let $g \equiv g(X_3)$ be a given function and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ a constant. If $\mathbf{r} = X_1\mathbf{e}_1 + X_2\mathbf{e}_2 + X_3\mathbf{e}_3$ is the usual position vector in \mathbb{R}^3 , define the tensor field \mathbf{F} by

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla \otimes \left[g(X_3)\mathbf{e}_3 - \frac{X_3^2}{2}\mathbf{r} \right] + \mathbf{e}_3 \otimes \nabla \left[\frac{1}{2}(\beta X_3^2 + X_3 r^2) \right],$$

where $r^2 = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}$.

- (a) Show that

$$\mathbf{u} = \left[g(X_3) + \frac{1}{2}(\beta X_3^2 + X_3 r^2) \right] \mathbf{e}_3 - \frac{X_3^2}{2}\mathbf{r}$$

is a particular solution of the equation (in \mathbf{u}),

$$\mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla + \nabla \otimes \mathbf{u} = 2\mathbf{F}. \quad (3)$$

- (b) Explain why any rigid deformation can be added to this solution to yield yet another solution of (3).



21. Consider the tensor field

$$\mathbf{F} = -KX_1 [(1 + \alpha)\mathbf{e}_3 \otimes \mathbf{e}_3 - \alpha\mathbf{I}] ,$$

where $K, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ are given constants.

(a) Show that this tensor field can be cast in the form

$$\mathbf{F} = -K\nabla \otimes \mathbf{a} + K\mathbf{e}_1 \otimes \nabla\phi , \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{a} \equiv \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r})$ and $\phi \equiv \phi(\mathbf{r})$ are vector and, respectively, scalar fields that you should identify.

(b) Check that

$$\mathbf{u} = K \left\{ \frac{1}{2} [X_3^2 + \alpha(X_1^2 - X_2^2)] \mathbf{e}_1 + \alpha X_1 X_2 \mathbf{e}_2 - X_1 X_3 \mathbf{e}_3 \right\}$$

is a solution of the equation

$$\mathbf{u} \otimes \nabla + \nabla \otimes \mathbf{u} = 2\mathbf{F} .$$

(c) By using (4) deduce that the particular solution of this equation stated above could have been obtained by inspection. The same assertion applies to Q.20.

[Note: these last two questions are relevant to what we shall study later on.]

22. Consider the fourth-order tensors \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{S} whose components are defined by the following formulae

$$C_{klmn} = \lambda \delta_{kl} \delta_{mn} + \mu (\delta_{km} \delta_{ln} + \delta_{kn} \delta_{lm}) ,$$
$$S_{klmn} = -\frac{\lambda}{2\mu(3\lambda + 2\mu)} \delta_{kl} \delta_{mn} + \frac{1}{4\mu} (\delta_{km} \delta_{ln} + \delta_{kn} \delta_{lm}) ,$$

where λ, μ are real constants, $(3\lambda + 2\mu)\mu \neq 0$.

Show that \mathbb{C} is the inverse of \mathbb{S} .