

# Homework No. 01 (Spring 2026)

## PHYS 520B: ELECTROMAGNETIC THEORY

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Due date: Tuesday, 2026 Jan 20, 4.30pm

Analytic manipulations in vector calculus are conveniently accomplished using index notation and dyadic notation. The following exercise serve as a review for the methods. Submit problems 4, 23, 24, and 29, for assessment. Rest are for practice.

### (Algebraic) index notation

1. (10 points.) Verify the following relations:

$$\delta_{ij} = \delta_{ji}, \tag{1a}$$

$$\delta_{ii} = 3, \tag{1b}$$

$$\delta_{ik}\delta_{kj} = \delta_{ij}, \tag{1c}$$

$$\delta_{im}B_m = B_i, \tag{1d}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ijk} = -\varepsilon_{ikj} = \varepsilon_{kij}, \tag{1e}$$

$$\varepsilon_{iik} = 0, \tag{1f}$$

$$\delta_{ij}\varepsilon_{ijk} = 0. \tag{1g}$$

2. (10 points.) In three dimensions the Levi-Civita symbol is given in terms of the determinant of the Kronecker  $\delta$ -functions,

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon_{lmn} &= \begin{vmatrix} \delta_{il} & \delta_{im} & \delta_{in} \\ \delta_{jl} & \delta_{jm} & \delta_{jn} \\ \delta_{kl} & \delta_{km} & \delta_{kn} \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \delta_{il}(\delta_{jm}\delta_{kn} - \delta_{jn}\delta_{km}) \\ &\quad + \delta_{im}(\delta_{jn}\delta_{kl} - \delta_{jl}\delta_{kn}) \\ &\quad + \delta_{in}(\delta_{jl}\delta_{km} - \delta_{jm}\delta_{kl}). \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Using the above identity show that

$$\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon_{imn} = \delta_{jm}\delta_{kn} - \delta_{jn}\delta_{km}, \tag{3a}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon_{ijn} = 2\delta_{kn}, \tag{3b}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ijk}\varepsilon_{ijk} = 6. \tag{3c}$$

3. **(10 points.)** Using the property of Kronecker  $\delta$ -function and Levi-Civita symbol evaluate the following using index notation.

$$\delta_{ij}\delta_{ji} = \quad (4a)$$

$$\delta_{ij}\varepsilon_{ijk} = \quad (4b)$$

$$\varepsilon_{ijm}\delta_{mn}\varepsilon_{nij} = \quad (4c)$$

4. **(20 points.)** Using index notation and the properties of Kronecker  $\delta$ -function and Levi-Civita symbol expand the left hand side of the vector equation below to express it in the form on the right hand side,

$$(\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot (\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{D}) = \alpha(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{D}) + \beta(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{D})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C}). \quad (5)$$

In particular find the numbers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

5. **(20 points.)** Given

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{r} \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathbf{B}$  is a constant (homogeneous in space) vector field. Using index notation and the properties of Kronecker  $\delta$ -function and Levi-Civita symbol in three dimensions expand the left hand side of the vector equation below to express it in the form on the right hand side,

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \alpha\mathbf{B} + \beta\mathbf{r}. \quad (7)$$

In particular find the numbers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

6. **(10 points.)** Derive the following vector identities (using index notation)

$$\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}), \quad (8)$$

$$(\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot (\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{D}) = (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{D}) - (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{D})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C}), \quad (9)$$

7. **(10 points.)** Use index notation or dyadic notation to show that

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A}, \quad (10a)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}), \quad (10b)$$

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}) - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})\mathbf{B} - (\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}. \quad (10c)$$

8. **(10 points.)** (Ref. Schwinger et al., problem 1, chapter 1.) Verify the following identities explicitly:

$$(a) \quad \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A},$$

$$(b) \quad \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}),$$

$$(c) \quad \mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) + \mathbf{B} \times (\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{A}) + \mathbf{C} \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = 0,$$

$$(d) \quad \nabla \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{A} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) - (\mathbf{A} \times \nabla) \times \mathbf{B} + (\mathbf{B} \times \nabla) \times \mathbf{A}.$$

## (Geometric) dyadic notation

9. (20 points.) Verify the following identities:

$$\nabla r = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r} = \hat{\mathbf{r}}, \quad (11a)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} = 1. \quad (11b)$$

Further, show that

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} = 3, \quad (12a)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{r} = 0. \quad (12b)$$

Here  $r$  is the magnitude of the position vector  $\mathbf{r}$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$  is the unit vector pointing in the direction of  $\mathbf{r}$ .

10. (25 points.) Evaluate

$$\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3} \right), \quad (13)$$

everywhere in space, including  $\mathbf{r} = 0$ .

Hint: Check your answer for consistency by using divergence theorem.

11. (10 points.) Show that

$$(a) \quad \nabla \frac{1}{r^n} = -\mathbf{r} \frac{n}{r^{n+2}}$$

$$(b) \quad \nabla \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^n} = \mathbf{1} \frac{1}{r^n} - \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r} \frac{n}{r^{n+2}}$$

$$(c) \quad \nabla \cdot \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^n} = \frac{(3-n)}{r^n}$$

$$(d) \quad \nabla \times \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^n} = 0$$

12. (10 points.) For the position vector

$$\mathbf{r} = r \hat{\mathbf{r}} = x \hat{\mathbf{i}} + y \hat{\mathbf{j}} + z \hat{\mathbf{k}}, \quad (14)$$

show that

$$\nabla r = \hat{\mathbf{r}}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} = 3, \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{r} = 0. \quad (15)$$

Further, show that for  $n \neq 3$

$$\nabla \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^n} = \mathbf{1} \frac{1}{r^n} - \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r} \frac{n}{r^{n+2}}, \quad \nabla \cdot \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^n} = \frac{(3-n)}{r^n}, \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \times \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^n} = 0. \quad (16)$$

For  $n = 3$  use divergence theorem to show that

$$\nabla \cdot \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3} = 4\pi \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x}). \quad (17)$$

13. (10 points.) (Based on Problem 1.13, Griffiths 4th edition.)  
Show that

$$\nabla r^2 = 2\mathbf{r}. \quad (18)$$

Then evaluate  $\nabla r^3$ . Show that

$$\nabla \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2}. \quad (19)$$

Then evaluate  $\nabla(1/r^2)$ .

14. (10 points.) Evaluate the left hand side of the equation

$$\nabla \frac{1}{r^3} = \alpha \hat{\mathbf{r}} r^n. \quad (20)$$

Thus find  $\alpha$  and  $n$ .

15. (10 points.) Evaluate the left hand side of the equation

$$\nabla(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p}) = a \mathbf{p} + b \mathbf{r}, \quad (21)$$

where  $\mathbf{p}$  is a constant vector. Thus, find  $a$  and  $b$ .

16. (20 points.) Given

$$\nabla^2(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{r}) = c. \quad (22)$$

Find the scalar  $c$ .

17. (20 points.) Evaluate the left hand side of the equation

$$\nabla \cdot (r^2 \mathbf{r}) = a r^n. \quad (23)$$

Thus, find  $a$  and  $n$ .

18. (20 points.) Evaluate

$$\nabla \left( \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{r^3} \right), \quad (24)$$

where  $\mathbf{p}$  is a constant vector.

19. (20 points.) Evaluate the left hand side of the equation

$$\nabla \left( \frac{1}{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p}} \right) = a \mathbf{p} + b \mathbf{r}, \quad (25)$$

where  $\mathbf{p}$  is a constant vector. Thus, find  $a$  and  $b$ .

20. (20 points.) Evaluate

$$\nabla \times \left( \frac{\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{r}}{r^3} \right), \quad (26)$$

where  $\mathbf{m}$  is a constant vector.

21. (20 points.) Given the flow velocity field

$$\mathbf{v} = \omega \rho \hat{\phi} \quad (27)$$

determine the vorticity  $\nabla \times \mathbf{v}$  of the flow. Illustrate the flow field and the vorticity using the associated vector field lines. Here  $\omega$  is a constant, and  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  are cylindrical polar coordinates.

22. (20 points.) Given the flow velocity field

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{c}{\rho} \hat{\phi} \quad (28)$$

determine the vorticity  $\nabla \times \mathbf{v}$  of the flow. Illustrate the flow field and the vorticity using the associated vector field lines. Here  $c$  is a constant, and  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  are cylindrical polar coordinates. Let  $\rho \neq 0$ .

23. (20 points.) The relation between the vector potential  $\mathbf{A}$  and the magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$  is

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}. \quad (29)$$

For a constant (homogeneous in space) magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$ , verify that

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{r} \quad (30)$$

is a possible vector potential by showing that Eq. (30) satisfies Eq. (29).

24. (20 points.) Show that

$$\nabla(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{a}) = -\frac{1}{r} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times (\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \mathbf{a}) \quad (31)$$

for a uniform (homogeneous in space) vector  $\mathbf{a}$ .

25. (20 points.) Show that

$$\nabla \cdot [P_0 \hat{\mathbf{r}} \theta(R - r)], \quad (32)$$

for a uniform (homogeneous in space)  $P_0$ , can be expressed as a sum of two terms, a surface term and a volume term. Here  $\theta(x) = 1$  if  $x > 0$  and 0 otherwise.

26. (20 points.) Consider the dyadic construction

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{B} \quad (33)$$

built using the vector fields,

$$\mathbf{E} = E_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + E_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}, \quad (34a)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = B \hat{\mathbf{y}}. \quad (34b)$$

Evaluate the following components of the dyadic:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (35a)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (35b)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (35c)$$

Evaluate the scalars

$$\text{Tr}(\mathbf{T}) = T_{ii}, \quad (36a)$$

$$\text{Tr}(\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{T}) = T_{ij}T_{ji}, \quad (36b)$$

$$\text{Tr}(\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{T}) = T_{ij}T_{jk}T_{ki}. \quad (36c)$$

Evaluate the following vector field constructions:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \quad (37a)$$

$$\mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (37b)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad (37c)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad (37d)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (37e)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (37f)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (37g)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (37h)$$

Consider the dyadic construction

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{B} \quad (38)$$

built using the vector fields,

$$\mathbf{E} = E_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + E_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}, \quad (39a)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = B \hat{\mathbf{y}}. \quad (39b)$$

Evaluate the following components of the dyadic:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (40a)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (40b)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (40c)$$

Evaluate the scalars

$$\text{Tr}(\mathbf{T}) = T_{ii}, \quad (41a)$$

$$\text{Tr}(\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{T}) = T_{ij}T_{ji}, \quad (41b)$$

$$\text{Tr}(\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{T}) = T_{ij}T_{jk}T_{ki}. \quad (41c)$$

Evaluate the following vector field constructions:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \quad (42a)$$

$$\mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (42b)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad (42c)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad (42d)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (42e)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (42f)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (42g)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{T} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \quad (42h)$$

## Application of $\delta$ -functions

27. **(10 points.)** A uniformly charged infinitely thin disc of radius  $R$  and total charge  $Q$  is placed on the  $x$ - $y$  plane such that the normal vector is along the  $z$  axis and the center of the disc at the origin. Write down the charge density of the disc in terms of  $\delta$ -function(s). Integrate over the charge density and verify that it returns the total charge on the disc.
28. **(10 points.)** Write down the charge density for the following configurations: Point charge, line charge, surface charge, uniformly charged disc, uniformly charged ring, uniformly charged shell, uniformly charged spherical ball.
29. **(10 points.)** The distance between two points  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{r}'$  in rectangular coordinates is explicitly given by

$$|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| = \sqrt{(x - x')^2 + (y - y')^2 + (z - z')^2}. \quad (43)$$

The charge density of a charge  $q$  at the origin is described in terms of delta functions as

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = q\delta(x)\delta(y)\delta(z). \quad (44)$$

Evaluate the electric potential at the observation point  $\mathbf{r}$ , due to a point charge  $q$  placed at source point  $\mathbf{r}'$ , using

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3r' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}, \quad (45)$$

where  $\int d^3r' = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz'$ . That is, evaluate the three integrals in

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz' \frac{\delta(x')\delta(y')\delta(z')}{\sqrt{(x - x')^2 + (y - y')^2 + (z - z')^2}}. \quad (46)$$