

Lectures on Electromagnetic theory I

PH 2151

Lecture 5

(The vector operator ∇ or del operator)

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The del operator ∇ and $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}$ in cartesian coordinate system

$$\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{a}_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{a}_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$\mathbf{D} = D_x \mathbf{a}_x + D_y \mathbf{a}_y + D_z \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$(\text{div } \mathbf{D}) \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \frac{\partial D}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial D}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial D}{\partial z}$$

Ex: If $\mathbf{D} = 4xy\mathbf{a}_x - xy^2 \mathbf{a}_y + 5 \sin z \mathbf{a}_z$

Find $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}$ at (2,2,0)

The $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}$ in cylindrical coordinates

If $h_\rho = 1$, $h_\phi = \rho$, $h_z = 1$

Prove that: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} (\rho D_\rho) + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial D_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial D_z}{\partial z}$

Ex :

If $\mathbf{D} = \rho \sin \phi \mathbf{a}_\rho + 2\rho \cos \phi \mathbf{a}_\phi + 2z^2 \mathbf{a}_z$

Find $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}$

The $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}$ in spherical Coordinates

- ▶ If $h_r = 1$, $h_\theta = r$, $h_\phi = r \sin\theta$, Prove that :
- ▶
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^2 \mathbf{D}_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(\sin\theta \mathbf{D}_\theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$
- ▶ Ex: If $\mathbf{D} = r \mathbf{a}_r - r^2 \cot\theta \mathbf{a}_\theta$, find $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}$

Problems

- 1) Prove that $\text{div} \mathbf{E}$ for a line charge equals zero except at $\rho = 0$, where $\mathbf{E}$ is electric field intensity.
- 2) If $\mathbf{A} = 5x^2 \left(\sin \frac{\pi x}{2} \right) \mathbf{a}_x$, find $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}$ at $x=1$
- 3) Prove that $\text{div} \mathbf{D}$ for a point charge equals zero, where $\mathbf{D}$ is the electric flux density, except at $r=0$
- 4) If $\mathbf{A} = \rho \sin \phi \mathbf{a}_\rho + \rho^2 \cos \phi \mathbf{a}_\phi + 2\rho e^{-5z} \mathbf{a}_z$, find $\text{div} \mathbf{A}$ at $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \pi/2, 0 \right)$
- 5) If $\mathbf{A} = \left(\frac{5}{r^2} \right) \sin \theta \mathbf{a}_r + r \cot \theta \mathbf{a}_\theta + r \sin \theta \cos \phi \mathbf{a}_\phi$, find $\text{div} \mathbf{A}$.