

Proof of a Tensor Identity

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I. Introduction

THE problem is the verification of a tensor identity with the *indicial notation*(no other method should be used).

II. Curl of the Transpose of a Gradient of a Vector

The identity that has to be proven is the following:

$$\text{curl}(\nabla \mathbf{u}^T) = \nabla \text{curl} \mathbf{u} \quad (1)$$

or, in an equivalent writing:

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \mathbf{u}^T) = \nabla (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \quad (2)$$

My attempt follows. Please find where I make the mistake!

The vector in indicial notation is:

$$\mathbf{u} = u_i \hat{e}_i \quad (3)$$

The operator ∇ is:

$$\nabla = \partial_i \hat{e}_i \quad (4)$$

The gradient of vector \mathbf{u} is the following *tensor*:

$$\nabla \mathbf{u} = \partial_i \hat{e}_i u_j \hat{e}_j = u_{j,i} \hat{e}_i \hat{e}_j \quad (5)$$

where $u_{j,i} = \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i}$. The transpose of the gradient of \mathbf{u} is obtained from 5:

$$\nabla \mathbf{u}^T = u_{j,i} \hat{e}_j \hat{e}_i \equiv u_{i,j} \hat{e}_i \hat{e}_j \quad (6)$$

The curl of the transpose of the gradient of a vector is (see equations 4 and 6):

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \mathbf{u}^T) = \partial_k \hat{e}_k \times u_{i,j} \hat{e}_i \hat{e}_j = (u_{i,jk} \hat{e}_k \times \hat{e}_i) \hat{e}_j = \varepsilon_{kip} u_{i,jk} \hat{e}_p \hat{e}_j \equiv \varepsilon_{kip} u_{i,kj} \hat{e}_p \hat{e}_j \quad (7)$$

Where ε_{kip} is the permutation symbol.

Now we work on the RHS of equation 2.

$$\nabla (\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) = \partial_p \hat{e}_p (\partial_i \hat{e}_i \times u_j \hat{e}_j) = \partial_p \hat{e}_p (u_{j,i} \hat{e}_i \times \hat{e}_j) = \partial_p \hat{e}_p (\varepsilon_{ijk} u_{j,i} \hat{e}_k) = \varepsilon_{ijk} u_{j,ip} \hat{e}_p \hat{e}_k \equiv \varepsilon_{ijk} u_{j,pi} \hat{e}_p \hat{e}_k \quad (8)$$

If the identity represented by equation 2 is true, then equations 8 and 7 must represent the same quantity. However, it seems that even if I change the symbols and I use the permutation symbol's properties I can not demonstrate that. Could you please help me and post your derivation (please post only the indicial notation)?