

Orthogonal Curvilinear CoordinatesDefinition:

The curvilinear are the common name of different pairs of coordinates other than cartesian coordinates.

Let (x, y, z) be the cartesian coordinates of any point P and (u_1, u_2, u_3) are new coordinates which are related to (x, y, z) with the relation.

$$x = x(u_1, u_2, u_3)$$

$$y = y(u_1, u_2, u_3)$$

$$z = z(u_1, u_2, u_3)$$

Solving the above equation, we can write,

Let, u_1, u_2, u_3 in terms of (x, y, z) represented by

$$u_1 = u_1(x, y, z)$$

$$u_2 = u_2(x, y, z)$$

$$u_3 = u_3(x, y, z)$$

The above set of equations defines transformation of coordinates. Hence, the functions are single value and have continuous derivatives. As a result, the corresponding between (x, y, z) and (u_1, u_2, u_3) is unit, These coordinates u_1, u_2, u_3 are called curvilinear coordinates.

Some common examples of curvilinear coordinates are -

- (1) Spherical polar coordinate.
- (2) Cylindrical coordinate.
- (3) Paraboloidal coordinate.

* Orthogonal curvilinear coordinates

In any curvilinear coordinates system there are coordinates & surfaces corresponding to $u_1 = c_1$, $u_2 = c_2$, $u_3 = c_3$ where c_1, c_2, c_3 are const. The intersection of each pair of surface results a curve line called coordinate line.

A system of curvilinear coordinates u_1, u_2, u_3 is said to be orthogonal if the tangent to the coordinate lines are mutually perpendicular.

* Unit vector of curvilinear coordinate system

The unit vector along the tangents to the coordinate lines at a point are called unit vectors in the curvilinear coordinates. They are denoted by

$$u_1 \rightarrow \hat{e}_1$$

$$u_2 \rightarrow \hat{e}_2$$

$$u_3 \rightarrow \hat{e}_3$$

If the position vectors of a points whose cartesian coordinates are (x, y, z) and the corresponding curvilinear coordinates are (u_1, u_2, u_3)

The rate of variation of \vec{r} along the tangent of first quadrant is given by $\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_1}$. This is a vector quantity along tangent to u_1 line and hence, it is called tangent vector along this line is

$$\hat{e}_1 = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_1}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_1} \right|}$$

Similarly,

$$\hat{e}_2 = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_2}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_2} \right|} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{e}_3 = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_3}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_3} \right|}$$

if h_1, h_2, h_3 be the corresponding modulus of tangent vector:

$$h_1 = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_1} \right|, \quad h_2 = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_2} \right|, \quad h_3 = \left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_3} \right|$$

Then,

$$\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_1} = h_1 \hat{e}_1, \quad \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_2} = h_2 \hat{e}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_3} = h_3 \hat{e}_3$$

now,

$$\vec{r} = h_1 \hat{e}_1 + h_2 \hat{e}_2 + h_3 \hat{e}_3$$

* Expression for arc length in curvilinear coordinates

In cartesian coordinate system the length element is represented by

$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

$$= (\hat{i}dx + \hat{j}dy + \hat{k}dz) \cdot (\hat{i}dx + \hat{j}dy + \hat{k}dz)$$

$$ds^2 = d\vec{r} \cdot d\vec{r} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Here

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}(u_1, u_2, u_3)$$

$$d\vec{r} = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_1} du_1 + \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_2} du_2 + \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_3} du_3$$

$$= h_1 du_1 \hat{e}_1 + h_2 du_2 \hat{e}_2 + h_3 du_3 \hat{e}_3 \quad \left\{ \because \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial u_i} = \hat{e}_i h_i \right\}$$

from (1)

$$ds^2 = d\vec{r} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$= (h_1 du_1 \hat{e}_1 + h_2 du_2 \hat{e}_2 + h_3 du_3 \hat{e}_3) \cdot (h_1 du_1 \hat{e}_1 + h_2 du_2 \hat{e}_2 + h_3 du_3 \hat{e}_3)$$

$$= h_1^2 du_1^2 + h_2^2 du_2^2 + h_3^2 du_3^2$$



Therefore, length element,

$$ds = \sqrt{h_1^2 du_1^2 + h_2^2 du_2^2 + h_3^2 du_3^2}$$

We know,

The distance between any two points in the curvilinear coordinate system is called the line arc element, which is given by

$$ds_i = h_i du_i$$

In this case there are 3 possible surface area element in the orthogonal curvilinear system which are given by

$$\begin{aligned} dA_{ij} &= ds_i ds_j \\ &= h_i h_j du_i du_j \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} i, j = 1, 2, 3 \\ i \neq j \end{array} \right.$$

* Volume Element in Orthogonal Curvilinear System

The volume element in orthogonal curvilinear is given by

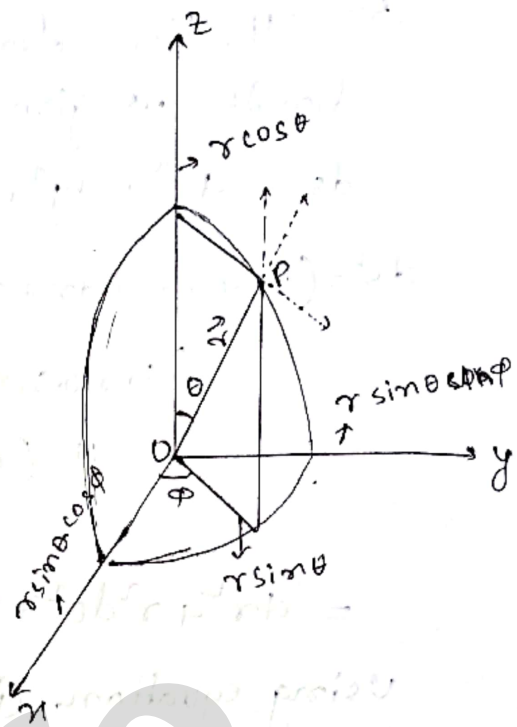
$$dV = ds_i ds_j ds_k$$

$$= h_i h_j h_k du_i du_j du_k$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} i, j, k = 1, 2, 3 \\ i \neq j \neq k \end{array} \right]$$

* Spherical polar coordinates as Spherical curvilinear coordinates

Let P be a point in space. Such that its curvilinear points are (u_1, u_2, u_3) and cartesian points are (x, y, z) then, the spherical polar coordinates can be specified by $u_1 = r$, $u_2 = \theta$, and $u_3 = \phi$



Here,

$r = OP$, the distance of the point from origin.
 θ is the angle between of OP and z axis
 ϕ is the angle between xz plane and OPz plane.

From the figure, the transformation equation, represented by.

$$x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

$$y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

$$z = r \cos \theta$$

Now,

$$dx = \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} d\theta + \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} d\phi \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$= \sin \theta \cos \phi dr + r \cos \theta \cos \phi d\theta - r \sin \theta \sin \phi d\phi$$

$$dy = \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} d\theta + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} d\phi \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$= \sin \theta \sin \phi dr + r \cos \theta \sin \phi d\theta + r \sin \theta \cos \phi d\phi$$

$$\therefore dz = \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} d\theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} d\phi$$

$$= \cos \theta dr - r \sin \theta d\theta + 0$$

$$= \cos \theta dr - r \sin \theta d\theta \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

So, The line element in spherical polar coordinates is given by

$$ds^2 = dr^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

$$ds^2 = (\sin\theta \cos\phi dr + r \cos\theta \cos\phi d\theta - r \sin\theta \sin\phi d\phi)^2 + (\sin\theta \sin\phi dr + r \cos\theta \sin\phi d\theta + r \sin\theta \cos\phi d\phi)^2 + (\cos\theta dr - r \sin\theta d\theta)^2$$

$$= dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2\theta d\phi^2 \quad \text{---(4)}$$

Using equation (1), (2) and (3)

but the line element in curvilinear coordinates is given by:

$$ds^2 = h_1^2 du_1^2 + h_2^2 du_2^2 + h_3^2 du_3^2$$

In spherical polar coordinate the length element is given by

$$ds^2 = h_1^2 dr^2 + h_2^2 d\theta^2 + h_3^2 d\phi^2 \quad \text{---(5)}$$

comparing (4) and (5)

$$h_1 = 1,$$

$$h_2 = r,$$

$$h_3 = r \sin\theta.$$

So, the volume element in spherical polar coordinates is given by

$$dV = h_1 h_2 h_3 du_1 du_2 du_3$$

$$dV = 1 \cdot r \cdot (r \sin\theta) dr d\theta d\phi$$

$$\boxed{dV = r^2 \sin\theta dr d\theta d\phi}$$

Unit vector of spherical polar coordinates

We have, position vector is given by

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r} = r \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{i} + r \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{j} + r \cos\theta \hat{k}$$

Now, The unit vectors along the curvilinear coordinates are -

$$\therefore \hat{e}_1 = \hat{e}_r = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r} \right|}$$

$$\hat{e}_r = \frac{1}{r} \left\{ \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{i} + \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{j} + \cos\theta \hat{k} \right\}$$

$$\hat{e}_r = \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{i} + \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{j} + \cos\theta \hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \hat{e}_2 = \hat{e}_\theta = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} \right|}$$

$$\hat{e}_\theta = \frac{1}{r} \left\{ r \cos\theta \cos\phi \hat{i} + r \cos\theta \sin\phi \hat{j} - r \sin\theta \hat{k} \right\}$$

$$\hat{e}_\theta = \cos\theta \cos\phi \hat{i} + \cos\theta \sin\phi \hat{j} - \hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \hat{e}_3 = \hat{e}_\phi = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \phi}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \phi} \right|}$$

$$\hat{e}_\phi = \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \left\{ -r \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{i} + r \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{j} + 0 \right\}$$

$$\hat{e}_\phi = -\sin\phi \hat{i} + \cos\phi \hat{j} //$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{e}_\theta \cdot \hat{e}_\phi &= \left\{ \cos\theta \cos\phi \hat{i} + \cos\theta \sin\phi \hat{j} - \hat{k} \right\} \cdot \left\{ -\sin\phi \hat{i} + \cos\phi \hat{j} \right\} \\ &= -\cos\theta \cos\phi \sin\phi + \cos\theta \sin\phi \cos\phi \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

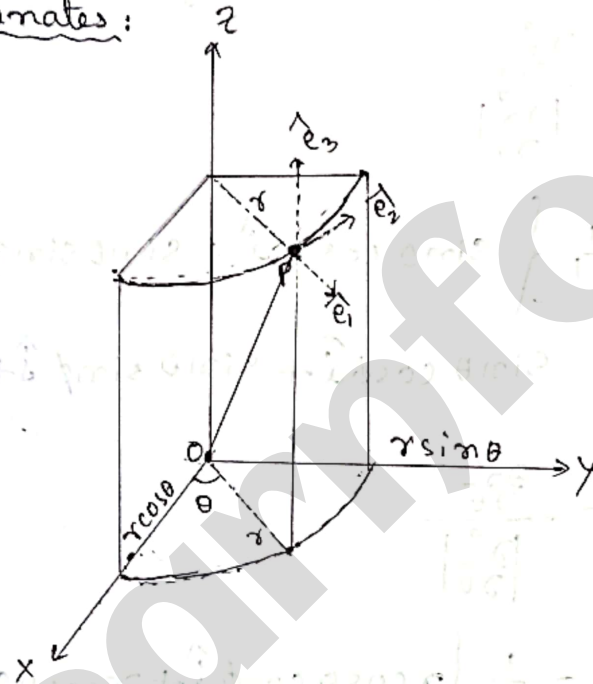
$$\therefore \vec{e}_r \cdot \hat{e}_\theta = 0,$$

and

$$\vec{e}_r \cdot \hat{e}_\phi = 0,$$

So, the unit vectors are mutually perpendicular to each other. i.e.; They are orthogonal

* Cylindrical coordinate as spherical curvilinear coordinates:



Let P be a point on the space such that its curvilinear coordinates are (u_1, u_2, u_3) and cartesian coordinates are (x, y, z) . Let the position of P in xy plane be θ , where the polar coordinates of the point is (r, θ) . So, the cylindrical coordinate of point P is given by

$$u_1 = r, u_2 = \theta, u_3 = z$$

The transformation equation of the coordinate can be obtained from the adjacent figure.

$$x = r \cos \theta,$$

$$y = r \sin \theta,$$

$$z = z,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore dx &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} d\theta + \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} dz \\ &= \cos\theta dr - r \sin\theta d\theta + 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore dy &= \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} d\theta + \frac{\partial y}{\partial z} dz \\ &= \sin\theta dr + r \cos\theta d\theta + 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore dz &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} d\theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial z} dz \\ &= dz \end{aligned}$$

So, the line element can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 \\ &= (\cos\theta dr - r \sin\theta d\theta)^2 + (\sin\theta dr + r \cos\theta d\theta)^2 + dz^2 \\ &= dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 + dz^2 \quad \text{--- (1)} \end{aligned}$$

but the line element in curvilinear coordinates is given by

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= h_1^2 du_1^2 + h_2^2 du_2^2 + h_3^2 du_3^2 \\ &= h_1^2 dr^2 + h_2^2 d\theta^2 + h_3^2 dz^2 \quad \text{--- (2)} \end{aligned}$$

\therefore Comparing equation (1) and (2) we get

$$h_1 = 1,$$

$$h_2 = r,$$

$$h_3 = 1$$

So, the volume element in cylindrical coordinates is given by

$$d\tau = h_1 h_2 h_3 du_1 du_2 du_3$$

$$d\tau = 1 \cdot r \cdot 1 dr d\theta dz$$

$$\boxed{d\tau = r dr d\theta dz}$$

* Unit vector in cylindrical coordinate system

We have, the position vector in cylindrical coordinate is given by

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$
$$= r\cos\theta\hat{i} + r\sin\theta\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

Now, the unit vectors along the curvilinear coordinates are -

$$\therefore \hat{e}_1 = \hat{e}_r = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r} \right|}$$

$$\hat{e}_r = \frac{1}{r} (\cos\theta\hat{i} + \sin\theta\hat{j})$$

$$\hat{e}_r = \cos\theta\hat{i} + \sin\theta\hat{j}$$

$$\therefore \hat{e}_2 = \hat{e}_\theta = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} \right|}$$

$$\hat{e}_\theta = \frac{1}{r} (-r\sin\theta\hat{i} + r\cos\theta\hat{j})$$

$$\hat{e}_\theta = -\sin\theta\hat{i} + \cos\theta\hat{j}$$

$$\therefore \hat{e}_3 = \hat{e}_z = \frac{\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial z}}{\left| \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial z} \right|}$$

$$\hat{e}_z = \frac{1}{1} (\hat{k})$$

$$\hat{e}_z = \hat{k}$$

Now,

$$\therefore \hat{e}_r \cdot \hat{e}_\theta = (\cos\theta\hat{i} + \sin\theta\hat{j}) \cdot (-\sin\theta\hat{i} + \cos\theta\hat{j})$$
$$= -\sin\theta\cos\theta + \sin\theta\cos\theta$$
$$= 0$$

$$\therefore \hat{e}_\theta \cdot \hat{e}_z = 0,$$

$$\therefore \hat{e}_r \cdot \hat{e}_z = 0,$$

So, the unit vectors are mutually perpendicular to each other that is they are orthogonal.

Basic

gradient $\rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \phi \rightarrow$ vector. (Δ scalar operation)

divergent $\rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} \rightarrow$ scalar

curl $\rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \rightarrow$ vector

* Gradient in Orthogonal curvilinear coordinates

Let us consider a scalar function ϕ , such that

$$\phi = \phi(u_1, u_2, u_3)$$

Then the gradient of the scalar function is given by,

$$\vec{\nabla} \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_1} \vec{\nabla} u_1 + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_2} \vec{\nabla} u_2 + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_3} \vec{\nabla} u_3 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

But from the orthogonal curvilinear coordinate system, we have,

$$\vec{\nabla} u_1 = \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1}, \quad \vec{\nabla} u_2 = \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2}, \quad \vec{\nabla} u_3 = \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3}$$

From (1), we get,

$$\vec{\nabla} \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_1} \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_2} \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_3} \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \phi = \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_1} + \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_2} + \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \phi = \left(\frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} + \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} + \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \right) \phi$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} = \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} + \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} + \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3}$$

(This required for value of $\text{magn}(\vec{\nabla})$)

So, (i) In spherical polar coordinates, if,

$$u_1 = r, \quad u_2 = \theta, \quad u_3 = \phi$$

also,

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = r \sin \theta$$

∴ In spherical polar coordinate (nebla)

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{e}_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\hat{e}_2}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\hat{e}_3}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$

gradient in spherical polar coordinate,

$$\vec{\nabla} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi}$$

(2) In cylindrical polar coordinate if

$$u_1 = r, \quad u_2 = \theta, \quad u_3 = z$$

and

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = 1$$

In cylindrical polar coordinate (nebla)

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{e}_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\hat{e}_2}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \hat{e}_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

gradient in cylindrical polar coordinate

$$\vec{\nabla} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right) = \vec{\nabla}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z} = \vec{\nabla}$$

(∴) gradient in cylindrical polar coordinate

* Expression for divergence in orthogonal curvilinear coordinate:

Let \vec{A} be a vector quantity

$$\vec{A} = A_1 \hat{e}_1 + A_2 \hat{e}_2 + A_3 \hat{e}_3$$

also an orthogonal curvilinear coordinate.

$$\hat{e}_1 = \hat{e}_2 \times \hat{e}_3 = h_2 h_3 (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3)$$

$$\therefore \vec{A} = A_1 h_2 h_3 (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) + A_2 h_3 h_1 (\vec{\nabla} u_3 \times \vec{\nabla} u_1) + A_3 h_1 h_2 (\vec{\nabla} u_1 \times \vec{\nabla} u_2)$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \left[A_1 h_2 h_3 (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) + A_2 h_3 h_1 (\vec{\nabla} u_3 \times \vec{\nabla} u_1) + A_3 h_1 h_2 (\vec{\nabla} u_1 \times \vec{\nabla} u_2) \right]$$

Now, from vector identity,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\phi \vec{A}) = \phi \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} + (\vec{\nabla} \phi) \cdot \vec{A}$$

So,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \left[A_1 h_2 h_3 (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) \right] = A_1 h_2 h_3 \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) + \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \cdot (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Now,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \vec{B} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) - \vec{A} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \therefore \text{curl / grad. } \phi = 0 \\ \therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

So,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) = \vec{\nabla} u_3 (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} u_2) - \vec{\nabla} u_2 (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} u_3)$$

$$= 0 - 0$$

$$= 0$$

$$\left\{ \therefore \text{since } \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi = 0. \right.$$

So from equation (1) we get .

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} \cdot \left\{ A_1 h_2 h_3 (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) \right\} &= \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \cdot (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) \\ &= \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} \times \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \right) \\ &= \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \cdot \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_2 h_3} \quad \text{--- (2)}\end{aligned}$$

Now ,

$A_1 h_2 h_3$ is function of u_1, u_2, u_3 .

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_2 h_3) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \vec{\nabla} u_1 + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \vec{\nabla} u_2 + \\ &\quad \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \vec{\nabla} u_3 \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} + \\ &\quad \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3}\end{aligned}$$

So, from equation (2) we can write,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \left\{ A_1 h_2 h_3 (\vec{\nabla} u_2 \times \vec{\nabla} u_3) \right\} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3}$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_2 h_3) \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_2 h_3 h_1) \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} +$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_2 h_3) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_2 h_3 h_1) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_3 h_1 h_2) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (A_r r^2) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} (A_\phi \sin \theta)$$

Note

① In spherical polar coordinate

$$u_1 = r, \quad u_2 = \theta, \quad u_3 = \phi$$

and

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = r \sin \theta$$

So, divergence in an spherical polar coordinate

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (A_1 r^2 \sin \theta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_2 r \sin \theta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} (A_3 r) \right]$$

② In cylindrical polar coordinate

$$u_1 = r, \quad u_2 = \theta, \quad u_3 = z$$

and,

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = 1.$$

So, divergence in a cylindrical polar coordinate

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (A_1 r) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (A_3 r) \right]$$

(*) Expression for curl in orthogonal curvilinear coordinate

Let us consider a vector function of \vec{A} .

Such that,

$$\vec{A} = A_1 \hat{e}_1 + A_2 \hat{e}_2 + A_3 \hat{e}_3$$

$$\therefore \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \vec{\nabla} \times (A_1 \hat{e}_1) + \vec{\nabla} \times (A_2 \hat{e}_2) + \vec{\nabla} \times (A_3 \hat{e}_3)$$

$$= \vec{\nabla} \times (A_1 h_1 \vec{\nabla} u_1) + \vec{\nabla} \times (A_2 h_2 \vec{\nabla} u_2) + \vec{\nabla} \times (A_3 h_3 \vec{\nabla} u_3)$$

Now, using vector Identity, we have, ①

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (\phi \vec{A}) = \phi (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) + (\vec{\nabla} \phi) \times \vec{A}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{\nabla} \times (A_1 h_1 \vec{\nabla} u_1) &= A_1 h_1 (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} u_1) + \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_1) \times \vec{\nabla} u_1 \\ &= \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_1) \times \vec{\nabla} u_1 \quad \left\{ \because \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} u_1 = 0 \right\} \\ &= \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_1) \times \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} \quad \text{--- (2)} \end{aligned}$$

Since, $A_1 h_1$ is function of u_1, u_2, u_3 .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{\nabla} (A_1 h_1) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_1) \vec{\nabla} u_1 + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) \vec{\nabla} u_2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) \vec{\nabla} u_3 \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \end{aligned}$$

So, equation (2) becomes,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \times (A_1 h_1 \vec{\nabla} u_1) &= \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \right] \\ &\quad \times \frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) \frac{(-\hat{e}_3)}{h_1 h_2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_3 h_1} \\ &= \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) h_2 \hat{e}_2 - \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) h_3 \hat{e}_3 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) h_2 \hat{e}_2 - \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) h_3 \hat{e}_3 \right]$$

So, from equation (i) we get,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} &= \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[\left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_1 h_1) h_2 \hat{e}_2 - \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_1 h_1) h_3 \hat{e}_3 \right\} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_2 h_2) h_3 \hat{e}_3 - \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (A_2 h_2) h_1 \hat{e}_1 \right\} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (A_3 h_3) h_1 \hat{e}_1 - \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (A_3 h_3) h_2 \hat{e}_2 \right\} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \begin{bmatrix} h_1 \hat{e}_1 & h_2 \hat{e}_2 & h_3 \hat{e}_3 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} & \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \\ A_1 h_1 & A_2 h_2 & A_3 h_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note

(1) In spherical polar coordinate

$$u_1 = r, \quad u_2 = \theta, \quad u_3 = \phi$$

and

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = r \sin \theta$$

So, curl in spherical polar coordinate.

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{e}_1 & r \hat{e}_2 & r \sin \theta \hat{e}_3 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ A_1 & A_2 r & A_3 r \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

(2) In cylindrical polar coordinate

$$u_1 = r, \quad u_2 = \theta, \quad u_3 = z$$

and

$$h_1 = 1, \quad h_2 = r, \quad h_3 = 1$$

So, curl in cylindrical polar coordinate

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \frac{1}{r} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{e}_1 & r \hat{e}_2 & \hat{e}_3 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ A_1 & A_2 r & A_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

*. Expression for Laplacian in orthogonal curvilinear coordinate

We have the gradient in orthogonal curvilinear coordinate is given by

$$\vec{\nabla} = \left(\frac{\hat{e}_1}{h_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} + \frac{\hat{e}_2}{h_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} + \frac{\hat{e}_3}{h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \right)$$

∴ Laplacian

$$\nabla^2 = (\vec{\nabla})^2$$

$$= \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\nabla}$$

$$= \left(\hat{e}_1 \frac{\partial}{h_1 \partial u_1} + \hat{e}_2 \frac{\partial}{h_2 \partial u_2} + \hat{e}_3 \frac{\partial}{h_3 \partial u_3} \right) \cdot$$

$$\left(\hat{e}_1 \frac{\partial}{h_1 \partial u_1} + \hat{e}_2 \frac{\partial}{h_2 \partial u_2} + \hat{e}_3 \frac{\partial}{h_3 \partial u_3} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{h_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{h_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \right)^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} \left(\frac{h_2 h_3}{h_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} \left(\frac{h_3 h_1}{h_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \left(\frac{h_1 h_2}{h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \right) \right]$$