

2.12 find ∇f and $\nabla^2 f$ in sph cartesian & spherical:

a) $f = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2$

cartesian

$$\nabla f = 2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j} + 2z\hat{k} = 2\vec{r}$$

$$\nabla^2 f = 2 + 2 + 2 = 6$$

spherical

$$\nabla f = \hat{r} \frac{df}{dr} + \hat{\theta} \frac{1}{r} \frac{df}{d\theta} + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{df}{d\phi}$$

$$f = r^2 \rightarrow \nabla f = \hat{r} \cdot 2r = 2\vec{r}$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{df}{dr} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin\theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{df}{d\theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2\theta} \frac{d^2 f}{d\phi^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} (2r^3) = 6r^2/r^2 = 6$$

b) $f = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2} = r$

cartesian

$$\nabla f = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2} (2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j} + 2z\hat{k}) = \vec{r}/r$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} + \frac{x \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2x}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} + \frac{y \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2y}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} + \frac{z \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2z}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{3 - (x^2+y^2+z^2)/(x^2+y^2+z^2)}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}$$

$$= 2/\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}$$

spherical

$$\nabla f = \hat{r} \cdot 1 = \vec{r}/r \quad ; \quad \nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} (r^2 \frac{df}{dr}) + \dots = 2/r$$

c) $f = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2} = 1/r$

cartesian

$$\nabla f = (x^2+y^2+z^2)^{-3/2} \left(\hat{i} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2x + \hat{j} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2y + \hat{k} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2z \right) = -\vec{r}/r^3$$

$$\nabla^2 f = (x^2+y^2+z^2)^{-3/2} \left[-3 + \frac{1}{x^2+y^2+z^2} \left(-\frac{3}{2} \right) (2x^2+2y^2+2z^2) \right] = 0$$

$$\nabla f = \hat{r} \frac{df}{dr} + \dots = \hat{r} \left(-1/r^2 \right) = -\vec{r}/r^3$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{df}{dr} \right) + \dots = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \cdot \frac{-1}{r^2} \right) = \frac{-1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} (1) = 0$$