

Problem 1. Prove the identity

$$\varepsilon_{ijk} \varepsilon_{ipq} = \delta_{jp} \delta_{kq} - \delta_{jq} \delta_{kp}$$

where ε is the fully antisymmetric rank-3 tensor and δ is the Kronecker delta.

Problem 2. Until recently, I employed a super-enthusiastic postdoc by the name of Eager N. Diligent. One day, after having just learned the “epsilon i-j-k” notation, Dr. Diligent burst into my office saying, “Hey, Professor W., I’ve discovered a new vector identity which isn’t in any of my textbooks! This tensor notation is absolutely amazing!” Dr. Diligent’s identity was

$$\nabla \times (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = (\nabla \cdot \vec{B}) \vec{A} - (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) \vec{B}$$

Here is Diligent’s proof. Your job is to edit it: identify any specific errors and correct the corresponding steps, to arrive at the true identity.

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ \nabla \times (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) \right\}_i &= \varepsilon_{ijk} \partial_j \varepsilon_{klm} A_l B_m \\ &= \varepsilon_{ijk} \varepsilon_{klm} \partial_j A_l B_m \\ &= \varepsilon_{kij} \varepsilon_{klm} \partial_j A_l B_m \\ &= (\delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}) \partial_j A_l B_m \\ &= \partial_j A_i B_j - \partial_j A_j B_i \\ &= \partial_j B_j A_i - \partial_j A_j B_i \\ &= \left\{ (\nabla \cdot \vec{B}) \vec{A} - (\nabla \cdot \vec{A}) \vec{B} \right\}_i \quad q.e.d. \end{aligned}$$