

Vector Analysis

IFoS (IFS) Previous Year
Questions (PYQ) from
2020 to 2009

Ramanasri IFoS-IFS

IAS, UPSC, IFS, IFoS, CIVIL
SERVICE MAINS EXAMS
MATHS OPTIONAL STUDY
MATERIALS

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Vector Analysis PYQ 2020 to 2009

2020

1. Prove that for a vector \vec{a} , $\nabla(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{r}) = \vec{a}$; where $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$, $r = |\vec{r}|$. Is there any restriction on \vec{a} ?
Further, show that $\vec{a} \cdot \nabla \left(\vec{b} \cdot \nabla \frac{1}{r} \right) = \frac{3 \cdot (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{r})(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{r})}{r^5} - \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{r^3}$. Give an example to verify the above. [8 Marks]
2. A tangent is drawn to a given curve at some point of contact. B is a point on the tangent at a distance 5 units from the point of contact. Show that the curvature of the locus of the point B is $\frac{\left[25k^2\tau^2(1+25k^2) + \left\{ k + 5\frac{dk}{ds} + 25k^3 \right\} \right]^{1/2}}{(1+25k^2)^{3/2}}$. Find the curvature and torsion of the curve
 $\vec{r} = t\hat{i} + t^2\hat{j} + t^3\hat{k}$. [15 Marks]
3. Given a portion of a circular disc of radius 7 units and of height 1.5 units such that $x, y, z \geq 0$. Verify Gauss Divergence Theorem for the vector field $\vec{f} = (z, x, 3y^2z)$ over the surface of the above-mentioned circular disc. [15 Marks]
4. Derive expression of ∇f in terms of spherical coordinates. Prove that $\nabla^2(fg) = f\nabla^2g + 2\nabla f \cdot \nabla g + g\nabla^2f$ for any two vector point functions $f(r, \theta, \phi)$ and $g(r, \theta, \phi)$. Construct one example in three dimensions to verify this identity. [10 Marks]

2019

5. Let $\vec{r} = \vec{r}(s)$ represent a space curve. Find $\frac{d^3\vec{r}}{ds^3}$ in terms of \vec{T} , \vec{N} and \vec{B} , where \vec{T} , \vec{N} and \vec{B} represent tangent, principal normal and binormal respectively. Compute $\frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \cdot \left(\frac{d^2\vec{r}}{ds^2} \times \frac{d^3\vec{r}}{ds^3} \right)$ in terms of radius of curvature and the torsion. [8 Marks]
6. Verify Stokes theorem for $\vec{V} = (2x - y)\hat{i} - yz^2\hat{j} - y^2z\hat{k}$, where S is the upper half surface of the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ and C is its boundary. [10 Marks]
8. Derive $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$ in spherical coordinates and compute $\nabla^2 = \left(\frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right)$ in spherical coordinates. [15 Marks]
9. Derive the Frenet-Serret formulae. Verify the same for the space curve $x = 3 \cos t$, $y = 3 \sin t$, $z = 4t$. [10 Marks]

2018

10. If $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$ and $f(r)$ is differentiable, show that $\text{div} [f(r)\vec{r}] = rf'(r) + 3f(r)$ Hence or otherwise show that $\text{div} \left(\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} \right) = 0$ [8 Marks]

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Vector Analysis PYQ 2020 to 2009

11. Let α be a unit-speed curve in R^3 with constant curvature and zero torsion. Show that α is (part of) a circle. [10 Marks]
12. For a curve lying on a sphere of radius a and such that the torsion is never 0, show that
$$\left(\frac{1}{k}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{k'}{k^2\tau}\right)^2 = a^2$$
 [10 Marks]
13. Show that $\vec{F} = (2xy + z^3)\hat{i} + x^2\hat{j} + 3xz^2\hat{k}$ is a conservative force. Hence, find the scalar potential. Also find the work done in moving a particle of unit mass in the force field from $(1, -2, 1)$ to $(3, 1, 4)$ [15 Marks]

2017

14. Prove that $\nabla^2 r^n = n(n+1)r^{n-2}$ and that $r^{n\rightarrow}$ is irrotational where $r = \left|\vec{r}\right| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ [8 Marks]
15. Using Stokes theorem, evaluate $\oint_C [(x+y)dx + (2x-z)dy + (y+z)dz]$ where C is the boundary of the triangle with vertices at $(2, 0, 0)$, $(0, 3, 0)$ and $(0, 0, 6)$. [15 Marks]
16. Evaluate $\iint_S (\nabla \times \vec{f}) \cdot \hat{n} ds$ where S is the surface of the cone $z = 2 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ above xy - plane and $\vec{f} = (x-z)\hat{i} + (x^2 + yz)\hat{j} - 3xy^2\hat{k}$, [10 Marks]
17. Find the curvature and torsion of the circular helix $\vec{r} = a(\cos\theta, \sin\theta, \theta \cot\beta)$ β is the constant angle at which it cuts its generators [10 Marks]
18. If the tangent to a curve makes a constant angle α with a fixed line, then prove that $k \cos\alpha \pm \tau \sin\alpha = 0$. Conversely, if $\frac{k}{\tau}$ constant, then show that the tangent makes a constant angle with a fixed direction. [10 Marks]

2016

19. If E be the solid bounded by the xy plane and the paraboloid $z = 4 - x^2 - y^2$, then evaluate $\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$ where S is the surface bounding the volume E and $\vec{F} = (zx \sin yz + x^3)\hat{i} + \cos yz\hat{j} + (3zy^2 - e\lambda^2 + y^2)\hat{k}$. [8 Marks]
20. Evaluate $\iint_S (\nabla \times \vec{f}) \cdot \hat{n} ds$ for $\vec{f} = (2x - y)\hat{i} - yz^2\hat{j} - y^2z\hat{k}$ where S is the upper half surface of the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ bounded by its projected on the xy plane. [10 Marks]
21. State Stokes theorem. Verify the Stokes' theorem for the function $\vec{f} = x\hat{i} + z\hat{j} + 2y\hat{k}$, where C is the curve obtained by the intersection of the plane $z = x$ and the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ and S is the surface inside the intersected one. [15 Marks]
22. Prove that $\vec{a} \times (\vec{a} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c}$, if and only if either $\vec{b} = \vec{0}$ or \vec{c} is collinear with \vec{a} or \vec{b} is perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{c} . [10 Marks]

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2015

23. Find the curvature and torsion of the curve $x = a \cos t, y = a \sin t, z = bt$. [8 Marks]
24. Examine if the vector field defined by $\vec{F} = 2xyz^3\hat{i} + x^2z^3\hat{j} + x^2yz^2\hat{k}$ is irrotational if so, find scalar potential ϕ such that $\vec{F} = \text{grad}\phi$. [10 Marks]
25. Using divergence theorem, evaluate $\iiint_s (x^3 dydz + x^2 ydzdx + x^2 zdydx)$ where S is the surface of the sphere is $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$. [15 Marks]
26. If $\vec{F} = y\hat{i} + (x - 2xz)\hat{j} - xy\hat{k}$, evaluate $\iint_s (\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot \hat{n} dS$, where S is the surface of the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$ above the xy -plane. [10 Marks]

2014

27. For three vectors show that: $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) + \vec{b} \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{a}) + \vec{c} \times (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = 0$. [8 Marks]
28. For the vector $\vec{A} = \frac{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ examine if \vec{A} is an irrotational vector. Then determine ϕ such that $\vec{A} = \nabla\phi$ [10 Marks]
29. Evaluate $\iint_s \nabla \times \vec{A} \cdot \vec{n} ds$ for $\vec{A} = (x^2 + y - 4)\hat{i} + 3xy\hat{j} + (2xz + z^2)\hat{k}$ and S is the surface of hemisphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 16$ above xy plane [15 Marks]
30. Verify the divergence theorem for $\vec{A} = 4xi\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$ over the region $x^2 + y^2 = 4, z = 0, z = 3$ [15 Marks]

2013

31. \vec{F} Being a vector, prove that $\text{curl curl } \vec{F} = \text{grad div } \vec{F} - \nabla^2 \vec{F}$ where $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$ [8 Marks]
32. Evaluate $\int_s \vec{F} ds$ $\vec{F} = 4xi\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$ and S is the surface bounding the region $x^2 + y^2 = 4, z = 0$ and $z = 3$ [13 Marks]
33. Verify the Divergence theorem for the vector function $\vec{F} = (x^2 - yz)\hat{i} + (y^2 - xz)\hat{j} + (z^2 - xy)\hat{k}$ taken over the rectangular parallelepiped $0 \leq x \leq a, 0 \leq y \leq b, 0 \leq z \leq c$. [14 Marks]

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2012

34. If $u = x + y + z, v = x^2 + y^2 + z^2, w = yz + zx + xy$. prove that $u, \text{grad } v$ and $\text{grad } w$ are coplanar. [8 Marks]
35. Find the value of $\iint_s (\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot \vec{ds}$ taken over the upper portion of the surface $x^2 + y^2 - 2ax + az = 0$ and the bounding curve lies in the plane $z = 0$, when $\vec{F} = (y^2 + z^2 - x)\vec{i} + (z^2 + x^2 - y^2)\vec{j} + (x^2 + y^2 - z^2)\vec{k}$. [10 Marks]
36. Find the value of the line integral over a circular path given by $x^2 + y^2 = a^2, z = 0$, where the vector field, $\vec{F} = (\sin y)\vec{i} + x(1 + \cos y)\vec{j}$. [10 Marks]

2011

37. Evaluate the line integral $\oint_C (\sin x dx + y^2 dy - dz)$ where C is the circle [10 Marks]
38. Find the curvature torsion and the relation between the arc length S and parameter u for the curve: $\vec{r} = \vec{r}(u) = 2 \log \hat{i} + 4u\hat{j}(2u^2 + 1)\hat{k}$ [10 Marks]
39. Prove the vector identity $\text{curl}(\vec{f} \times \vec{g}) = \vec{f} \text{div } \vec{g} - \vec{g} \text{div } \vec{f} + (\vec{g} \cdot \nabla)\vec{f} - (\vec{f} \cdot \nabla)\vec{g}$ and verify it for the vectors $\vec{f} = x\hat{i} + z\hat{j} + y\hat{k}$ and $\vec{g} = y\hat{i} + z\hat{k}$ [10 Marks]
40. Verify Green's theorem in the plane for $\oint_C [3x^2 - 8y^2]dx + (4y - 6xy)dy$, where C is the boundary of the region enclosed by the curves $y = \sqrt{x}$ and $y = x^2$ [10 Marks]
41. The position vector \vec{r} of a particle mass 2 units at any time t , referred to fixed origin and axes, is $\vec{r} = (t^2 - 2t)\hat{i} + \left(\frac{1}{2}t^2 + 1\right)\hat{j} + \frac{1}{2}t^2\hat{k}$. At time $t = 1$, find its kinetic energy, angular momentum, time rate of change of the angular momentum and the moment of the resultant force, acting at the particle, about the origin. [10 Marks]

2010

42. Find the directional derivation of \vec{V}^2 . where, $\vec{V} = xy^2\vec{i} + zy^2\vec{j} + xz^2\vec{k}$ at the point $(2, 0, 3)$ in the direction of the outward normal to the surface $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 14$ at the point $(3, 2, 1)$ [8 Marks]
43. (i) Show that $\vec{F} = (2xy + z^3)\vec{i} + x^2\vec{j} + 3z^2x\vec{k}$ is a conservative field. Find its scalar potential and also the work done in moving a particle from $(1, -2, 1)$ to $(3, 1, 4)$ [5 Marks]
- (ii) Show that, $\nabla^2 f(r) = \left(\frac{2}{r}\right)f'(r) + f''(r)$, where $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ [5 Marks]

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44. Use divergence theorem to evaluate, $\iiint_S (x^3 dydz + x^2 dzdx + x^2 z dydx)$, where S is the sphere, $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$. [10 Marks]
45. If $\vec{A} = 2y\vec{i} - z\vec{j} - x^2\vec{k}$ and S is the surface of the parabolic cylinder $y^2 = 8x$ in the first octant bounded by the planes $y = 4, z = 6$, evaluate the surface integral, $\iint_S \vec{A} \cdot \hat{n} ds$ [10 Marks]
46. Use Green's theorem in a plane to evaluate the integral $\int_C [(2x^2 - y^2)dx + (x^2 + y^2)dy]$, where C is the boundary of the surface in the xy - plane enclosed by, $y = 0$ and the semi-circle, $y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$ [10 Marks]

2009

47. Verify Green's theorem in the plane for $\oint_C [(xy + y^2)dx + x^2 dy]$ where C is the closed curve of the region bounded by $y = x$ and $y = x^2$ [10 Marks]
48. Show that $\vec{A} = (6xy + z^3)\hat{i} + (3x^2 - z)\hat{j} + (3xz^2 - y)\hat{k}$ is irrotational Find a scalar function ϕ such that $\vec{A} = \text{grad } \phi$. [10 Marks]
49. Let $\psi(x, y, z)$ be a scalar function. Find $\text{grad } \psi$ and $\nabla^2 \psi$ in spherical coordinates. [8 Marks]
50. Verify Stokes' theorem for $\vec{A} = (y - z + 2)\hat{i} + (yz + 4)\hat{j} - xz\hat{k}$, where S is the surface of the cube $x = 0, y = 0, z = 0, x = 2, y = 2, z = 2$ above the xy plane. [12 Marks]
51. Show that, if $\vec{r} = x(s)\hat{i} + y(s)\hat{j} + z(s)\hat{k}$ is a space curve, $\frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \cdot \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{ds^2} \times \frac{d^3\vec{r}}{ds^3} = \frac{\tau}{\rho^2}$ where τ is the torsion and ρ the radius of curvature. [10 Marks]