

Math 321 Exercise

Due: March 27/29

Your Name:

Your Section:

Let's look at the applications of surface integral in physics.

1. Consider a ball with radius r deep in the water. Suppose the center of the ball is l below the water level. Archimedes principle says that 'Any object immersed in a fluid is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by the object'. Suppose the density of the water is ρ and we know the volume of the ball is $\frac{4\pi r^3}{3}$ (you can verify this using volume integral). Then, the buoyancy should be $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho g$ and point up. If we create coordinate system at the water level surface, and make z axis point downward, then we would have $\vec{F}_b = -\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho g \vec{e}_z$. Our goal here is to get this force by using surface integral directly.

a). We make the center of the ball on the z axis. Then the center has coordinate $(0, 0, l)$. Parametrize the surface of the ball using the suitable angles θ, φ . (**2 thank-you marks**)

b). The pressure due to the water equals $p(h) = \rho g h$ where h is the depth of the point in the water. Use this expression and surface integral to get the exact buoyancy above. (**4 thank-you marks**)

Ans: (a). $\vec{r}(\theta, \varphi) = r \sin \theta \cos \varphi \vec{e}_x + r \sin \theta \sin \varphi \vec{e}_y + (l + r \cos \theta) \vec{e}_z$ (Notice here $r \neq |\vec{r}|$)

(b). $d\vec{S} = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} \times \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \varphi} d\theta d\varphi = r^2 \sin \theta (\sin \theta \cos \varphi \vec{e}_x + \sin \theta \sin \varphi \vec{e}_y + \cos \theta \vec{e}_z) d\theta d\varphi$.

The force is $\vec{F} = - \int_S \rho g h d\vec{S} =$

$- \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \rho g (l + r \cos \theta) r^2 \sin \theta (\sin \theta \cos \varphi \vec{e}_x + \sin \theta \sin \varphi \vec{e}_y + \cos \theta \vec{e}_z) d\theta d\varphi$

x, y components are 0 because of the φ integrals. The z component is:

$$- \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \rho g (l + r \cos \theta) r^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta d\varphi = -r^3 \rho g \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \cos \theta \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta d\varphi$$

The answer is $-\frac{4\pi r^3 \rho}{3} g \vec{e}_z$

We have a negative sign for the force, because it is the water which pushes the ball. Then, at each point, the force points inside, but for $d\vec{S}$ we used the outer normal vector.