

Prof. Vidya Sagar (Department of Physics)

B.Sc (Part-1) Hons

State and prove Green's Theorem.

Green's Theorem:— The Theorem states that if ϕ and ψ are two continuously differentiable scalar functions such that $\nabla\phi$ and $\nabla\psi$ are also continuously differentiable, then

$$\iiint_S (\phi \nabla\psi - \psi \nabla\phi) d\vec{S} = \iiint_V (\phi \nabla^2\psi - \psi \nabla^2\phi) dv$$

Proof!— Let a vector function \vec{V} be given

$$\text{by } \vec{V} = \phi \cdot \nabla\psi \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

where ϕ and ψ are scalar functions so that \vec{V} is product of a scalar function ϕ and the gradient of another scalar function ψ .

Writing eqn (1) in terms of the components,

$$v_x = \phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x}, \quad v_y = \phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial y}, \quad v_z = \phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z}$$

$$\therefore \nabla \cdot \vec{V} = \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\phi \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$= \left[\phi \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} \right] + \left[\phi \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial y} \right]$$

$$+ \left[\phi \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial z} \right]$$

$$= \left[\phi \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \phi \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} + \phi \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} \right] + \left[\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right]$$

$$= \phi \cdot \nabla^2 \psi + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

By Gauss's theorem of divergence

$$\iint_S \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{n} \, ds = \iiint_V (\nabla \times \vec{\nabla}) \cdot d\mathbf{v} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Hence substituting from equation (1), (2) and

(3) we get

$$\iint_S (\phi \cdot \nabla \psi) \cdot \vec{n} \, ds = \iiint_V (\phi \cdot \nabla^2 \psi + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi) d\mathbf{v} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

If interchange ϕ and ψ in equation (4)

$$\iint_S (\psi \nabla \phi) \cdot \vec{n} \, ds = \iiint_V (\psi \nabla^2 \phi + \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla \phi) d\mathbf{v} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Now subtracting eqn (5) from (4)

$$\iint_S (\phi \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \phi) \cdot \vec{n} \, ds = \iiint_V (\phi \cdot \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \phi) d\mathbf{v}$$

$$\text{or, } \iint_S (\phi \cdot \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \phi) \cdot d\vec{S} = \iiint_V (\phi \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \phi) d\mathbf{v}$$

This is Green's theorem