Contents

Prefaces

Part I : Vector Calculus

1. Vectors and Scalars, Vector Algebra

1.1 Vectors and Scalars 1
1.2 Vector Algebra 1
1.3 Unit Vector, Components of a Vector 4
1.4 Magnitude and Direction of a Vector 5
1.5 Position Vector, Vector and Scalar Field 5
1.6 A Few Geometrical Problems 6

2. Scalar and Vector Product, Expansion of the Vector Concept

2.1 Scalar Product, Applications 7
2.2 Vector Product, Applications 9
2.3 Multiple Products 12
2.4 Expansion of the Vector Concept 14

3. Vector Differentiation

3.1 Ordinary Differentiation of Vectors, Spatial Curves 17
3.2 Differentiation of Vector Sums and Products 18
3.3 Differentiation of Multiple Products 18
3.4 Problems and Applications 18

4. Gradient, Divergence, Curl, LAPLACIAN Fields

4.1 Gradient, Divergence, Curl 19
4.2 Formulas Involving the Vector Differential Operator ∇ 20
4.3 A Few Problems and Applications, LAPLACIAN Fields 21

5. Vector Integration, Conservative Vector Fields

5.1 Concept of Vector Integrals 24
5.2 Examples of Vector Integrals 24
5.3 Conservative Vector Fields, Potential 25
5.4 Applications, Examples 29

6. GAUSS' and GREEN's Identities, STOKES' Theorem

6.1 GAUSS' Identity (Divergence Theorem) 30
6.2 GREEN's Identities 32
6.3 Further Integral Theorems 33
6.4 Definitions of the Vector Operations Divergence, Gradient, and Curl as Limits 34
6.5 GREEN's Theorem for a Plane and STOKES' Theorem 36

7. Curvilinear Orthogonal Coordinates

7.1 Definition of Curvilinear Coordinates 40
7.2 Position Vector, Unit Vectors Tangent to the Coordinate Lines, Unit Vectors Normal to the Coordinate Surfaces 41
7.3 Line and Volume Element 43
7.4 Gradient, Divergence, Curl, LAPLACE Operator 44
7.5 Spherical Polar Coordinates 48
7.6 Cylindrical Coordinates 49
7.7 Ellipsoidal Coordinates 51

Part II: Introduction to Potential Theory

1. Attraction of Finite Masses

1.1 Force of Attraction and Force Field of Two Point Masses 54
1.2 Arbitrary Number of Mass Points 55
1.3 Spatial Masses 56
1.4 Masses Distributed on Surfaces and Lines 58
1.5 Applications, Examples 59

2. The Potential and its Basic Qualities

2.1 Concept of the Potential 67
2.2 Potential of Attraction of Finite Masses 70
2.3 Potential of Attraction for Single Layers and Double Layers 72
2.4 LAPLACE's Differential Equation 74
2.5 Behavior of the Potential of Attraction and its First Derivatives at Infinity 75
2.6 Equipotential Surfaces, Lines of Force 77
2.7 Regular Harmonic Functions, Regularity at Infinity 78
2.8 Applications, Examples 78

3. Integral Theorems of Potential Theory

3.1 Vector Flux, Solenoid Fields 82
3.2 Flux of the Force of Attraction Through a Closed Surface 84
3.3 Non-Vortical Fields 87
3.4 POISSON's Differential Equation 88
3.5 GREEN's Formulas 88
3.6 Determination of STOKES' Constants of a Body 91
3.7 Interpretation of a Harmonic Function as a Potential, GREEN's Fundamental Formula of Potential Theory 92

4. Behavior of the Potential and its Derivatives Inside the Field Producing Masses

4.1 Potential of a Spatial Mass Within the Field Producing Mass 96
4.2 Attraction of a Spatial Mass for Field Points Within the Masses 99
4.3 Continuity of the Spatial Potential and its First Derivatives Inside the Field Producing Masses 100
4.4 The Second Derivatives of the Potential of a Spatial Mass Within the Field Producing Masses, POISSON's Equation 104
4.5 The Potential of the Single Layer and its First Derivatives for Field Points on the Layer 106
4.6 Discontinuity of the Potential of a Double Layer 110
4.7 Applications, Examples 114

Part III: Representation of Attracting Potentials by Means of Spherical and Ellipsoidal Harmonics

1. Power Series for Attracting Potentials

1.1 Power Series for the Potential of a Spatial Mass, Analytical Character of the Potential 117
1.2 Development of the Reciprocal Distance Between Two Points into LEGENDRE's Polynomials 120
1.3 Development of Attracting Potentials into LEGENDRE's Polynomials 122

2. LEGENDRE's Polynomials

2.1 Basic Qualities 124
2.2 Development of the Generating Function in a FOURIER Series 125
2.3 The Recursion Formulas of BONNET and CHRISTOFFEL 126
2.4 Calculation of LEGENDRE's Polynomials 128
2.5 RODRIGUES' Formula 130

3. Definition of Spherical Harmonics

3.1 Spatial Spherical Harmonics 131
3.2 Determination of Spatial Spherical Harmonics as Solutions of LAPLACE's Equation 133
3.3 LAPLACE's Surface Spherical Harmonics 135
3.4 Determination of LAPLACE's Surface Spherical Harmonics as Solutions of LAPLACE's Equation 137
3.5 LEGENDRE's Spherical Harmonics 138
3.6 Calculation of LEGENDRE's Associated Spherical Harmonics 141
3.7 Further Discussion of the Surface Spherical Harmonics 142
3.8 LEGENDRE's Spherical Harmonics of the Second Kind 146

4. Series Expansions in Spherical Harmonics

4.1 Orthogonality of LEGENDRE's Polynomials 148
4.2 Normalized Orthogonal Functions 150
4.3 A Finite Series for LEGENDRE's Polynomials 153
4.4 Series Expansions in Surface Spherical Harmonics 157
4.5 Examples of Series Expansions in Spherical Harmonics 160
4.6 Determining Coefficients of the Series Expansion of Empirically Given Functions 164
4.7 Series Expansion with Normalized Spherical Harmonics 172

5. Ellipsoidal Harmonic Functions

5.1 LAPLACE's Equation in Ellipsoidal Coordinates 174
5.2 Ellipsoidal Harmonic Functions as Solutions of LAPLACE's Equation 175

Part IV: Boundary Value Problems of Potential Theory

1. Introduction

1.1 Formulation of the Boundary Value Problems 178
1.2 Importance of Boundary Value Problems, Especially for Physical Geodesy 179
1.3 The Uniqueness Theorems of the Three Boundary Value Problems 179
1.4 The Inverse Problem of Potential Theory (STOKES' Theorem) 181

2. Some Solutions for the Three Boundary Value Problems

2.1 Solution of the First Boundary Value Problem for the Space Exterior to a Sphere by the Use of POISSON's Integral 183
2.2 Solution of the First Boundary Value Problem Using Surface Spherical Harmonics 185

2.3 Solution of the Second Boundary Value Problem for the Space Exterior to a Sphere by Surface Spherical Harmonics 188

2.4 Solution of the Third Boundary Value Problem for the Space Exterior to a Sphere by Surface Spherical Harmonics 189

2.5 STOKES' Integral Formula 191

2.6 Solution of the First Boundary Value Problem for the Interior and Exterior Space of a Rotational Ellipsoid 195

3. Boundary Value Problems and Integral Equations

3.1 Defining the Problems 196

3.2 Concept of the Integral Equation 197

3.3 The Integral Equations of the First Boundary Value Problem 198

3.4 The Integral Equations of the Second Boundary Value Problem 200

3.5 The Integral Equations of the Third Boundary Value Problem 201

4. Solution of FREDHOLM's Linear Inhomogeneous Equation of the Second Type

4.1 NEUMANN's Method of Successive Approximation 202

4.2 Product Kernels 206

4.3 FREDHOLM's Solution Method 211

4.4 FREDHOLM's Alternative Theorem 213

5. Proof of Existence for the Solutions of Boundary Value Problems 214

Selected Bibliography 216

Index 218