

# PREREQUISITES | SPECIAL RELATIVITY

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REFATH BARI

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## PREREQUISITES

THESE ARE THE CONCEPTS THAT ONE MUST KNOW INSIDE-OUT TO BE INVOLVED IN SPECIAL RELATIVITY:

1. PARTIAL DERIVATIVES
2. INTEGRALS (SURFACE, LINE, VOLUME, DOUBLE, TRIPLE)
3. GREEN'S THEOREM
4. DIVERGENCE THEOREM
5. GRADIENT, DIVERGENCE, CURL
6. COORDINATE SYSTEMS (CARTESIAN, SPHERICAL, CYLINDRICAL)

## MAIN QUESTIONS

THESE ARE THE CONCEPTS I'M STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND RIGHT NOW. OVERCOMING THESE OBSTACLES WILL MEAN ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT'S GRADIENT? DIVERGENCE? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
2. HOW CAN I FIND THE DIVERGENCE IN A SPHERICAL COORDINATE SYSTEM?
3. HOW CAN I FIND THE UNIT VECTORS IN A SPHERICAL COORDINATE SYSTEM?
4. HOW DO YOU TRANSLATE FROM CARTESIAN TO CYLINDRICAL COORDINATES?
5. WHEN CAN I CONSTRUCT A SPECIAL GAUSSIAN SURFACE? WHEN IS IT APPLICABLE?
6. WHAT ARE THE MAIN FORMS OF SYMMETRIC ELECTRIC FIELDS/SURFACES? I.E., PLANE, LINE, ETC.
7. WHAT IS THE DIVERGENCE IN A CURVILINEAR COORDINATE SYSTEM? HOW CAN I USE THAT GENERAL FORMULA TO FIND THE DIVERGENCE IN A SPHERICAL/CYLINDRICAL SYSTEM?
8. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PARTIAL DERIVATIVE AND AN ACTUAL DERIVATIVE?