Problem A.7

Evaluate $\int \mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{r}) \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{b}) d^3 r$, if $\mathbf{a} = (1, 2, 3)$, $\mathbf{b} = (3, 2, 1)$, and the integration is over a sphere of radius 1.5 centered at (2, 2, 2).

Solution

The aim is to determine whether the point with position vector $\mathbf{b} = (3, 2, 1)$ lies inside the sphere centered at (2, 2, 2) with radius 1.5. Calculate the distance between these two points.

$$d = \sqrt{(3-2)^2 + (2-2)^2 + (1-2)^2} = \sqrt{2} \approx 1.414$$

Since it's less than 1.5, the point with position vector \mathbf{b} lies inside the sphere, and

$$\int \mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{r}) \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{b}) d^3 r = [\mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{r})] \Big|_{\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{b}}$$
$$= \mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b})$$
$$= (3, 2, 1) \cdot (-2, 0, 2)$$
$$= 3(-2) + 2(0) + 1(2)$$
$$= -4.$$