

17.5: Divergence and Curl

$$\vec{\nabla} = \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \quad \text{"del operator"}$$

calc 1: $\frac{d}{dx}$

gradient: $\vec{\nabla} f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle$

input: f
Scalar field \longleftrightarrow output: vector field

divergence: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F} = \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \cdot \langle P, Q, R \rangle$

$$= \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial z}$$

input: \vec{F}
vector field \longleftrightarrow output: scalar field

If $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F} = 0$ we say \vec{F} is source free

curl: $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \times \langle P, Q, R \rangle$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ P & Q & R \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{\partial R}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial Q}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial R}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right\rangle$$

curl of a 2D vector field $\vec{F} = \langle P, Q, 0 \rangle$

input: \vec{F}
vector field \longleftrightarrow output: vector field

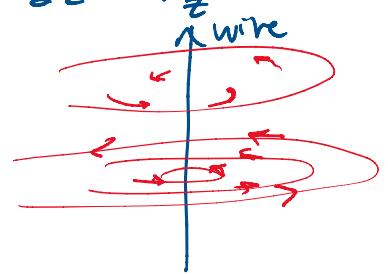
If $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = 0$, we say \vec{F} is irrotational

... law: If \vec{B} is a magnetic field,

Gauss's Law: If \vec{B} is a magnetic field,
then $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$

Ex: Is $\vec{B} = \langle -y, x, 0 \rangle$ a magnetic field?
 $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(-y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(0) = 0$

Divergence tells us how
much of the field is
"flowing in" or "flowing out"



Green's Thm for Flux:

$$\text{Flux} = \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{N} ds = \iint_D \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F} dA$$

Curl: $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F}$

imagine a flow \vec{F} , put a small paddle wheel
in the flow, does it rotate

In 2D: $F = \langle P, Q, 0 \rangle$
 $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = \langle 0, 0, \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \rangle = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} > 0$$

yes, rotates counter clock wise

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = 0$$

no, irrotational

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} < 0$$

yes, rotate clock wise

The general rotational vector field is
 $\vec{v} = \vec{a} \times \vec{r}$ where $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ is called

The general rotation
 $\vec{F} = \vec{a} \times \vec{r}$ where $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ is called
 the axis of rotation and $\vec{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$

Ex: $\vec{a} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$

$$\vec{F} = \vec{a} \times \vec{r} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \langle 2z - 3y, 3x - z, y - 2x \rangle$$

Q: Curl of a conservative vector field?

$$\vec{F} = \vec{\nabla} \phi = \left\langle \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z \partial y}, \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z \partial x} - \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x \partial z}, \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x \partial y} - \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y \partial x} \right\rangle$$

$$= \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle \quad \text{irrotational}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\nabla} f = \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle \cdot \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle$$

$$= \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} \quad \text{Laplacian}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\nabla} f = \nabla^2 f$$

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