

# Classroom notes of Vector Differential Calculus

from Chapter 9 of

Advanced Engineering Mathematics, E. Kreyszig, 10th Edition

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## 1 Vectors in 2-Space and 3-Space

**Definition 1** We have following definitions:

1. A vector is a quantity that has both magnitude and direction.
2.  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} \iff$  they have same length and same direction.
3. For  $\mathbf{a}$  with initial point  $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and terminal point  $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ , components of  $\mathbf{a}$  are given as

$$a_1 = x_2 - x_1, \quad a_2 = y_2 - y_1, \quad a_3 = z_2 - z_1.$$

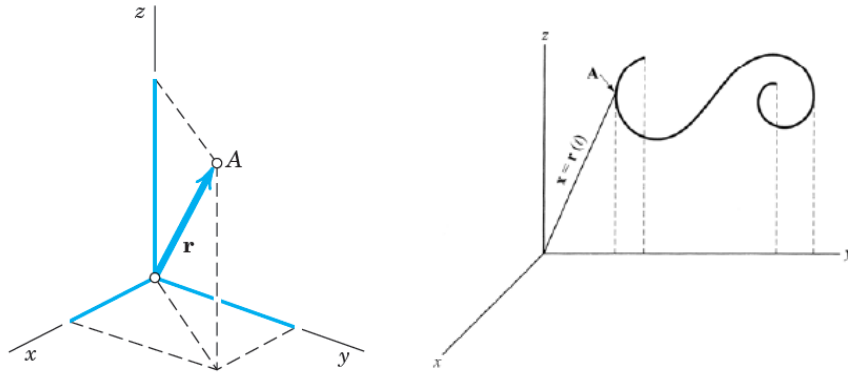
Moreover  $\mathbf{a}$  is written as  $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3]$ .

4. Length  $|\mathbf{a}|$  is given as  $|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$
5. A vector of length 1 is called a unit vector. Unit vector in the direction of a given vector  $\mathbf{a}$  may be computed as  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$ .

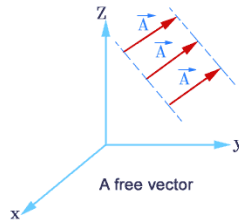
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6. Position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  of a point  $A(x, y, z)$  is the vector with the origin  $(0, 0, 0)$  as initial point and  $A(x, y, z)$  as the terminal point.

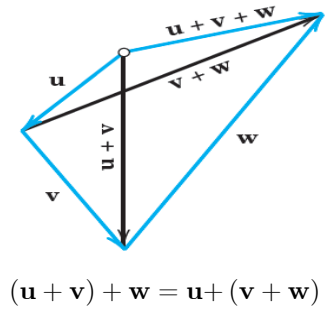
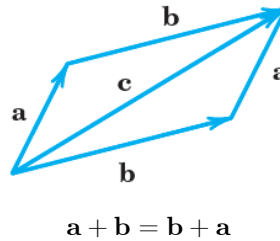
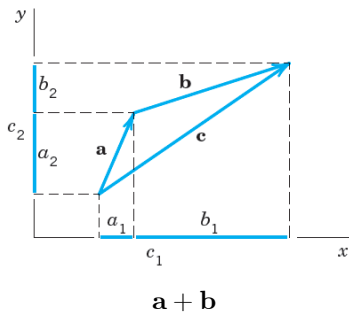


7. A vector that can be displaced parallel to itself and applied at any point is known as a free vector.

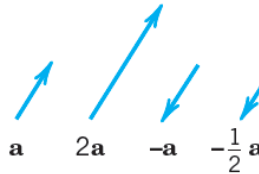


8. For  $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3]$  and  $\mathbf{b} = [b_1, b_2, b_3]$  and  $c$  any real number:

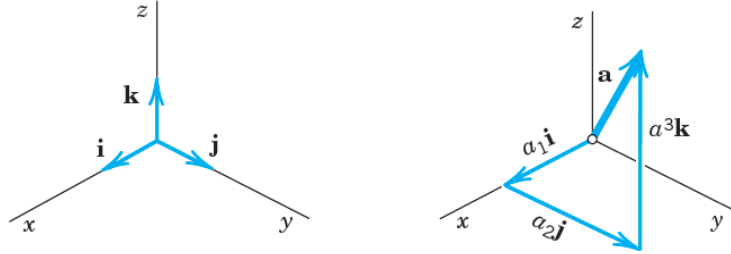
- Vector addition is defined as  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = [a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3]$ , and it has the properties:  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a}$ ,  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$ ,  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{a} + (-\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{0}$ .



- Scalar multiplication is defined as  $c\mathbf{a} = [ca_1, ca_2, ca_3]$ , and it has the properties:  $c(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) = c\mathbf{a} + c\mathbf{b}$ ,  $(c + k)\mathbf{a} = (c\mathbf{a} + k\mathbf{a})$ ,  $c(k\mathbf{a}) = (ck)\mathbf{a}$ ,  $1\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}$ .



9.  $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3]$  is also written as  $\mathbf{a} = a_1\mathbf{i} + a_2\mathbf{j} + a_3\mathbf{k}$  where  $\mathbf{i} = [1, 0, 0]$ ,  $\mathbf{j} = [0, 1, 0]$  and  $\mathbf{k} = [0, 0, 1]$ .



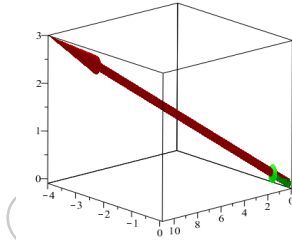
The unit vectors  $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$  and  $\mathbf{a} = a_1\mathbf{i} + a_2\mathbf{j} + a_3\mathbf{k}$

**Example 2** (10ed-9.1-3) Find components of the vector with initial point  $P(-3.5, 4.0, -1.5)$  and terminal point  $Q(7.5, 0, 1.5)$ . Find  $|\mathbf{v}|$ . Find the unit vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{v}$ . Sketch  $\mathbf{v}$ .

**Solution:** We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v} &= [7.5 - (-3.5), 0 - 4.0, 1.5 - (-1.5)] \\ &= [11.0, -4.0, 3.0] \\ |\mathbf{v}| &= \sqrt{(11.0)^2 + (-4.0)^2 + (3.0)^2} = \sqrt{146.0} = 12.083 \\ \mathbf{u} &= \frac{1}{|\mathbf{v}|}\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{12.083} [11.0, -4.0, 3.0] = [0.91, -0.33, 0.24]\end{aligned}$$

The sketch is given as



$\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|}$  (green)

■

**Example 3** (10ed-9.1-9) Find the terminal point  $Q$  of the vector  $\mathbf{v}$  with components  $3, 1, -3$  and initial point  $P(3, -1, -1)$ . Find  $|\mathbf{v}|$ .

**Solution:** Let  $Q$  be the point  $Q(x, y, z)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{PQ} &= [x - 3, y + 1, z + 1] = \mathbf{v} = [3, 1, -3] \\ \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x - 3 = 3 & x = 0 \\ y + 1 = 1 & \text{give } y = 0 \\ z + 1 = -3 & z = -4 \end{cases} \\ \text{Hence } Q &= (x, y, z) = (0, 0, -4) \\ |\mathbf{v}| &= \sqrt{3^2 + 1^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{19} \quad \blacksquare\end{aligned}$$

**Example 4** (10ed-9.1-16) For  $\mathbf{a} = [2, 3, 0]$  and  $\mathbf{c} = [-1, 5, 3] = -\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ , find  $\frac{6}{2}\mathbf{a} - 2\mathbf{c}$  and  $6(\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{c})$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{6}{2}\mathbf{a} - 2\mathbf{c} &= \frac{6}{2}[2, 3, 0] - 2[-1, 5, 3] = [6, 9, 0] - [-2, 10, 6] = [8, -1, -6] = 8\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 6\mathbf{k} \\ 6\left(\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{c}\right) &= 6\left(\frac{1}{2}[2, 3, 0] - \frac{1}{3}[-1, 5, 3]\right) = 6\left(\left[1, \frac{3}{2}, 0\right] - \left[-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{3}, 1\right]\right) \\ &= 6\left[\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{1}{6}, -1\right] = [8, -1, -6] = 8\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 6\mathbf{k} \quad \blacksquare\end{aligned}$$

**Example 5** (10ed-9.1-24) Find the resultant in terms of components and its magnitude for  $\mathbf{p} = [-1, 2, -3]$ ,  $\mathbf{q} = [1, 1, 1]$  and  $\mathbf{u} = [1, -2, 2]$ ?

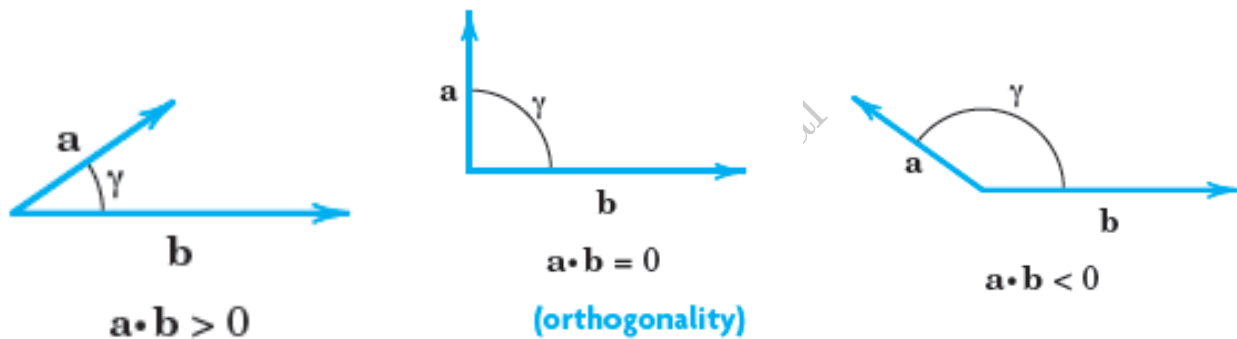
**Solution:** Since resultant of force vectors is the algebraic sum of vectors, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r} &= \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u} \\ &= [-1, 2, -3] + [1, 1, 1] + [1, -2, 2] \\ &= [-1 + 1 + 1, 2 + 1 - 2, -3 + 1 + 2] \\ &= [1, 1, 0] = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} \\ |\mathbf{r}| &= \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{2} \quad \blacksquare\end{aligned}$$

## 2 Inner Product (Dot Product)

**Definition 6** The inner product (aka dot product) of vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  with  $\gamma$  ( $0 \leq \gamma \leq \pi$ ) being the angle inbetween, is defined as  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos \gamma$ . In components form we have  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3$ . Also note that  $|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}}$  and using this one also writes

$$\cos \gamma = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \sqrt{\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b}}}.$$

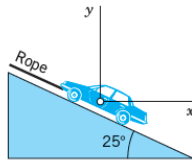


Angle between vectors and value of inner product

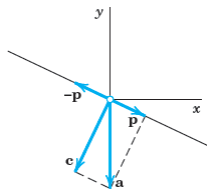
**Remark 7** Dot product possesses following properties:

*Linearity:*  $(q_1 \mathbf{a} + q_2 \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c} = q_1 \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} + q_2 \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c}$ , *Symmetry:*  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$ , *Positive-definiteness:*  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} \geq 0$  and  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = 0 \iff \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$ , *Distributivity:*  $(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c}$ , *Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:*  $|\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}| \leq |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|$ , *Triangle inequality:*  $|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}| \leq |\mathbf{a}| + |\mathbf{b}|$ , *Parallelogram equality:*  $|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}|^2 + |\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}|^2 = 2(|\mathbf{a}|^2 + |\mathbf{b}|^2)$ .

**Question:** What force in the rope in figure will hold a car of 5000 lb in equilibrium if the ramp makes an angle of  $25^\circ$  with the horizontal?



**Solution:** Introducing coordinates as shown



the weight is  $\mathbf{a} = [0, -5000]$ . We have to represent  $\mathbf{a}$  as sum of two forces i.e. the force exerted on the ramp by car and force dragging back the car due to slope of ramp, symbolically  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{p}$ . A vector in direction of rope is  $\mathbf{b} = [-1, \tan 25^\circ] = [-1, 0.46631]$ , thus  $|\mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (0.46631)^2} = 1.1034$ .

Direction of the balancing force has to be a unit vector opposite to that of the rope, i.e.

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{\mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{b}|} = -\frac{1}{1.1034} [-1, 0.46631] = [0.90629, -0.42261]$$

So the required force will be in direction of opposite to  $\mathbf{p}$  and, secondly, it should be such that its addition to  $\mathbf{c}$  should give resultant as  $\mathbf{a}$ . Second condition implies, we have to find the component of  $\mathbf{a}$  in direction of  $\mathbf{p}$  i.e.

$$|\mathbf{p}| = \mathbf{a} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}} = [0, -5000] \cdot [0.90629, -0.42261] = 2113.1 \text{ lb} \quad \blacksquare$$

**Remark 8** For the plane  $Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$ , the vector  $\mathbf{n} = [A, B, C]$  is normal to the given plane.

**Question:** (10ed-9.2-5) Find  $|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}|^2 + |\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}|^2 - 2(|\mathbf{a}|^2 + |\mathbf{c}|^2)$  where  $\mathbf{a} = [1, 3, 5]$ ,  $\mathbf{b} = [4, 0, 8]$ ,  $\mathbf{c} = [2, 9, 1]$ .

**Solution:**

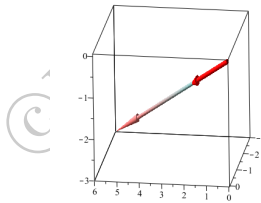
$$\begin{aligned} & |\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}|^2 + |\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}|^2 - 2(|\mathbf{a}|^2 + |\mathbf{c}|^2) \\ &= |[1, 3, 5] + [2, 9, 1]|^2 + |[1, 3, 5] - [2, 9, 1]|^2 - 2(|[1, 3, 5]|^2 + |[2, 9, 1]|^2) \\ &= |[1, 3, 5] + [2, 9, 1]|^2 + |[1, 3, 5] - [2, 9, 1]|^2 - 2(|[1, 3, 5]|^2 + |[2, 9, 1]|^2) \\ &= (\sqrt{35})^2 + (\sqrt{86})^2 - 2((\sqrt{35})^2 + (\sqrt{86})^2) \\ &= -121 \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.2-20) Find the work done by a force  $\mathbf{p} = [6, -3, -3]$  acting on a body if the body is displaced along the straight segment  $\overline{AB}$  from  $A : (1, 5, 2)$  and  $B : (3, 4, 1)$ . Sketch  $\overline{AB}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$ . Show the details.

**Solution:** We have  $\overline{AB} = [3 - 1, 4 - 5, 1 - 2] = [2, -1, -1]$  and work  $w$  is given as

$$w = \overline{AB} \cdot \mathbf{p} = [2, -1, -1] \cdot [6, -3, -3] = 18$$

Here are the sketch of both vectors  $\overline{AB} = [2, -1, -1]$  and  $\mathbf{p} = [6, -3, -3]$



**Question:** (10ed-9.2-30) Find the distance of the point  $A(1, 0, 2)$  from the plane  $P : 3x + y + z = 9$ . Make a sketch.

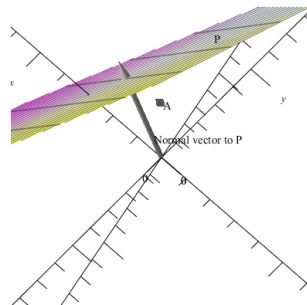
**Solution:** The unit vector normal to the plane  $P$  is given as

$$\mathbf{n} = 3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k} \Rightarrow \frac{\mathbf{n}}{|\mathbf{n}|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{11}} (3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$$

A point  $Q$  on plane is its  $x$ -intercept hence,  $[3x + y + z - 9]_{x=3, y=0, z=0} \Rightarrow x = 3$  gives  $Q : (3, 0, 0)$  and the vector  $QA = [1 - 3, 0 - 0, 2 - 0] = [-2, 0, 2]$

Projection on plane's unit normal vector is the distance and is given as  $QA \cdot \frac{\mathbf{n}}{|\mathbf{n}|} = [-2, 0, 2] \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{11}} [3, 1, 1] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{11}} (-6 + 0 + 2) = -\frac{4}{\sqrt{11}}$

Sketch is given as



**Question:** (10ed-9.2-32) For what  $c$  are  $P : 3x + z = 5$  and  $Q : 8x - y + cz = 9$  orthogonal?

**Solution:** Normal vectors to the given planes are

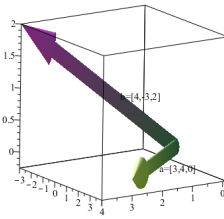
$$\text{for } P : [3, 0, 1] \quad \text{and for } Q : [8, -1, c]$$

Both these planes will be orthogonal iff dot product of their normal vectors is zero, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} [3, 0, 1] \cdot [8, -1, c] &= 0 \\ 24 + c &= 0 \Rightarrow c = -24 \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.2-37) Find the component of  $\mathbf{a} = [3, 4, 0]$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{b} = [4, -3, 2]$ . Make a sketch.

**Solution:** The mere direction of  $\mathbf{b}$  is given by its unit vector i.e.  $\frac{\mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{b}|} = \left[ \frac{4}{\sqrt{29}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}} \right]$ . hence the component of  $\mathbf{a}$  in direction of  $\mathbf{b}$  is  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{b}|} = [3, 4, 0] \cdot \left[ \frac{4}{\sqrt{29}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}} \right] = 0$ . Sketch:



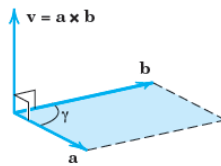
### 3 Vector Product (aka Cross Product, Outer Product)

**Definition 9** The *vector product*  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  of two vectors  $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, a_3]$  and  $\mathbf{b} = [b_1, b_2, b_3]$  is the vector defined as

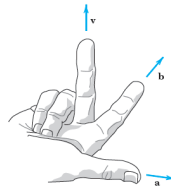
$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

**Remark 10** We have:

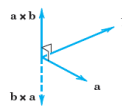
1.  $|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \sin \gamma$ , where  $\gamma$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ .
2. Magnitude (length) of  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  is exactly equal to the area of the parallelogram formed by  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ .



3. The direction of  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  is perpendicular to both  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , such that  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  (precisely in this written order) forms a right-handed triple.



4. If  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$  or  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$  or  $\gamma = 0^\circ, 180^\circ$  then  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$ .

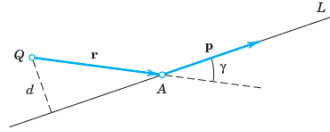


5. Cross product is anticommutative i.e.  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{a}$ . Specifically we have  $\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k}$ ,  $\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{i} = -\mathbf{k}$ ,  $\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{j} = -\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{k} = -\mathbf{j}$ .

6. For every scalar  $l$ ,

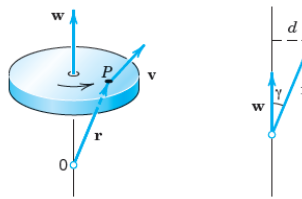
$$\begin{aligned}(l\mathbf{a}) \times \mathbf{b} &= l(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a} \times (l\mathbf{b}) \\ \mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) &= (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) + (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c}) \\ (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) \times \mathbf{c} &= (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c}) + (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) \\ \mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) &= (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}\end{aligned}$$

7. The moment  $\mathbf{m}$  of a force  $\mathbf{p}$  about a point  $Q$  is defined as  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}$ , where  $\mathbf{r}$  is the vector from  $Q$  to any point  $A$  on the line of action of  $\mathbf{p}$  (say)  $L$ .



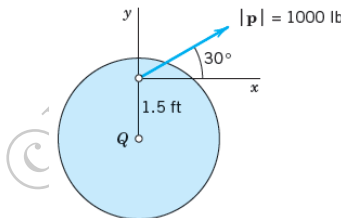
Furthermore,  $|\mathbf{m}| = m = |\mathbf{p}|d$ , where  $d$  is perpendicular distance between  $Q$  and  $L$ .

8. The velocity vector  $\mathbf{v}$  of a point  $P$  on rotating body  $B$  is given as  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{r}$  (see figure for description)



Moreover  $|\mathbf{v}| = |\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{r}| = \omega d$ , where  $\omega$  is the angular speed and  $|\mathbf{w}| = \omega$ .

**Question:** Find the moment of the force  $\mathbf{p}$  about the centre  $Q$  of the wheel given in figure below:



**Solution:** Introducing coordinates, we have  $\mathbf{p} = [1000 \cos 30^\circ, 1000 \sin 30^\circ, 0] = [866, 500, 0]$  and  $\mathbf{r} = [0, 1.5, 0]$ . Hence the moment is given as

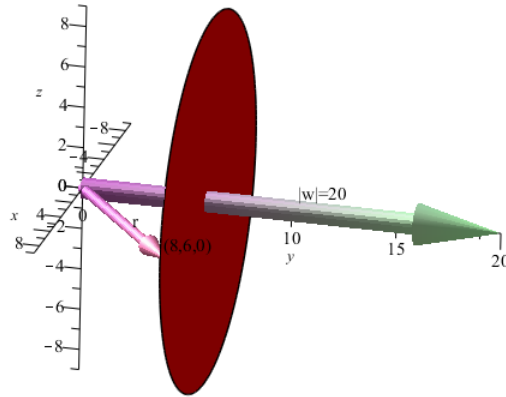
$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 0 & 1.5 & 0 \\ 866 & 500 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = [0, 0, -1299] = -1299\mathbf{k} \quad \blacksquare$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.3-7) A wheel is rotating about the  $y$ -axis with angular speed  $\omega = 20 \text{ sec}^{-1}$ . The rotation appears clockwise if one looks from the origin in the positive  $y$ -direction. Find the velocity and speed at the point  $[8, 6, 0]$ . Make a sketch.

**Solution:** As the wheel is on positive  $y$ -axis and we also know that magnitude of the vector  $\mathbf{w}$  equals the angular velocity  $\omega$ , hence we have  $\mathbf{w} = [0, 20, 0]$ . Position vector of point  $(8, 6, 0)$  is given as  $\mathbf{r} = [8, 6, 0]$ . Hence  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{r} =$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 0 & 20 & 0 \\ 8 & 6 & 0 \end{vmatrix} =$$

$|0\mathbf{i}+0\mathbf{j}-160\mathbf{k}| = 160$ . Sketch is given as

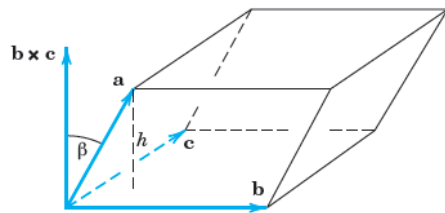


**Definition 11** Scalar triple product (aka Mixed Product) of three vectors  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$  is defined and denoted as  $(\mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{c}) =$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}.$$

**Remark 12** We have the properties of scalar triple product as

1.  $(\mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c}$
2.  $|(\mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{c})|$  is the volume of parallelepiped with edges  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$ .



Geometric interpretation of a scalar triple product

$$3. |(\mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{c})| = |\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})| = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}| |\cos \gamma|$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.3-13) With respect to right-handed Cartesian coordinates, showing the details find  $\mathbf{c} \times (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b})$  and  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$ , where  $\mathbf{a} = [1, -2, 0]$ ,  $\mathbf{b} = [-2, 3, 0]$ ,  $\mathbf{c} = [2, -4, -1]$ .

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{c} \times (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) &= [2, -4, -1] \times ([1, -2, 0] + [-2, 3, 0]) \\ &= [2, -4, -1] \times [-1, 1, 0] \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2 & -4 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = (0 + 1)\mathbf{i} - (0 - 1)\mathbf{j} + (2 - 4)\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} &= [1, -2, 0] \times [2, -4, -1] + [-2, 3, 0] \times [2, -4, -1] \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 2 & -4 & -1 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ -2 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & -4 & -1 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}) + (-3\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) \\ &= -\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} = -(\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}) \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

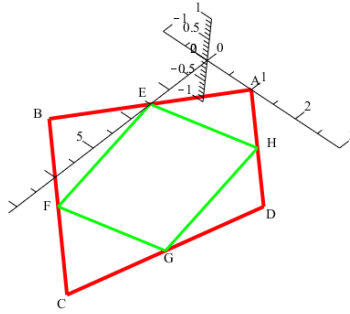
**Question:** (10ed-9.3-28) Find the area of quadrangle  $Q$  whose vertices are the midpoints of the sides of quadrangle  $P$  with vertices  $A(2, 1, 0)$ ,  $B(5, -1, 0)$ ,  $C(8, 2, 0)$  and  $D(4, 3, 0)$ . Verify that  $Q$  is a parallelogram.



**Solution:** Let  $E, F, G$  and  $H$  be mid points of the segments  $AB, BC, CD$  and  $AD$ , respectively. Then

$$E = \text{midpoint}(A, B) = \left( \frac{2+5}{2}, \frac{1-1}{2}, \frac{0+0}{2} \right) = \left( \frac{7}{2}, 0, 0 \right)$$

Similarly  $F \left( \frac{13}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0 \right)$ ,  $G \left( 6, \frac{5}{2}, 0 \right)$  and  $H (3, 2, 0)$ . Sketch is given as



Hence area of  $Q$  is given as

$$\begin{aligned} |\overrightarrow{EF} \times \overrightarrow{FG}| &= \left| \left[ \frac{13}{2} - \frac{7}{2}, \frac{1}{2} - 0, 0 - 0 \right] \times \left[ 6 - \frac{13}{2}, \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, 0 - 0 \right] \right| \\ &= \left| \left[ 3, \frac{1}{2}, 0 \right] \times \left[ -\frac{1}{2}, 2, 0 \right] \right| \\ &= \left| \left[ 0, 0, \frac{25}{4} \right] \right| = \frac{25}{4} \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

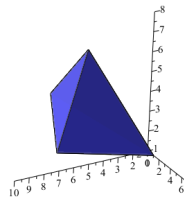
**Question:** (10ed-9.3-33) Find the volume of the tetrahedron whose vertices are  $(1, 1, 1)$ ,  $(5, -7, 3)$ ,  $(7, 4, 8)$  and  $(10, 7, 4)$ .

**Solution:**  $\mathbf{a} = (5, -7, 3) - (1, 1, 1) = [4 \quad -8 \quad 2]$

$\mathbf{b} = (7, 4, 8) - (1, 1, 1) = [6 \quad 3 \quad 7]$

$\mathbf{c} = (10, 7, 4) - (1, 1, 1) = [9 \quad 6 \quad 3]$

$$\text{volume of tetrahedron} = \frac{1}{6} \text{vol of parallelepiped} = \frac{1}{6} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{6} \begin{vmatrix} 4 & -8 & 2 \\ 6 & 3 & 7 \\ 9 & 6 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{6} |-474| = 79$$



■

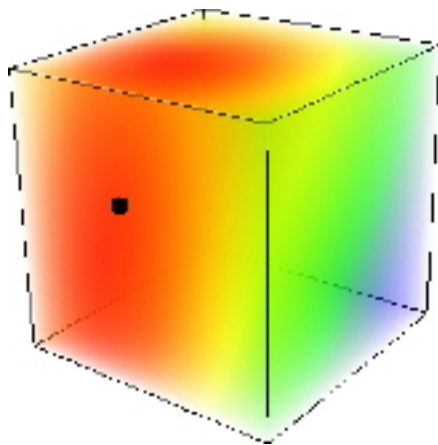
## 4 Vector and Scalar Functions and their Fields

**Definition 13** For any point  $P(x, y, z)$ ,

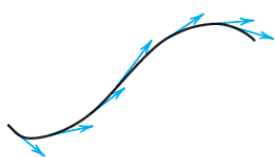
- the vector function  $\mathbf{v}$  is defined as  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}(P) = [v_1(x, y, z), v_2(x, y, z), v_3(x, y, z)]$ ,
- the scalar function  $f$  is defined as  $f(P) = f(x, y, z)$ .

**Remark 14** Field is a region in which every point has a defined value or vector attached to it through a scalar or vector function. The field is accordingly named as scalar field or vector field. Examples of scalar fields are: Temperature field of a

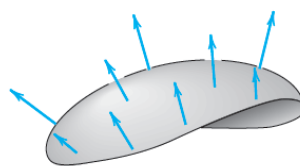
body and pressure field of air in Earth's atmosphere.



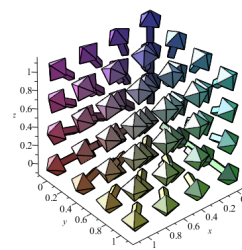
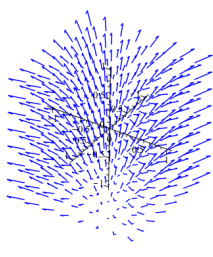
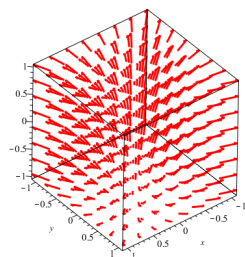
Examples of vector field are: gravitational field, electromagnetic field, flow field around an aircraft, field of tangent vectors of a curve and field of normal vectors of a surface.



Field of tangents

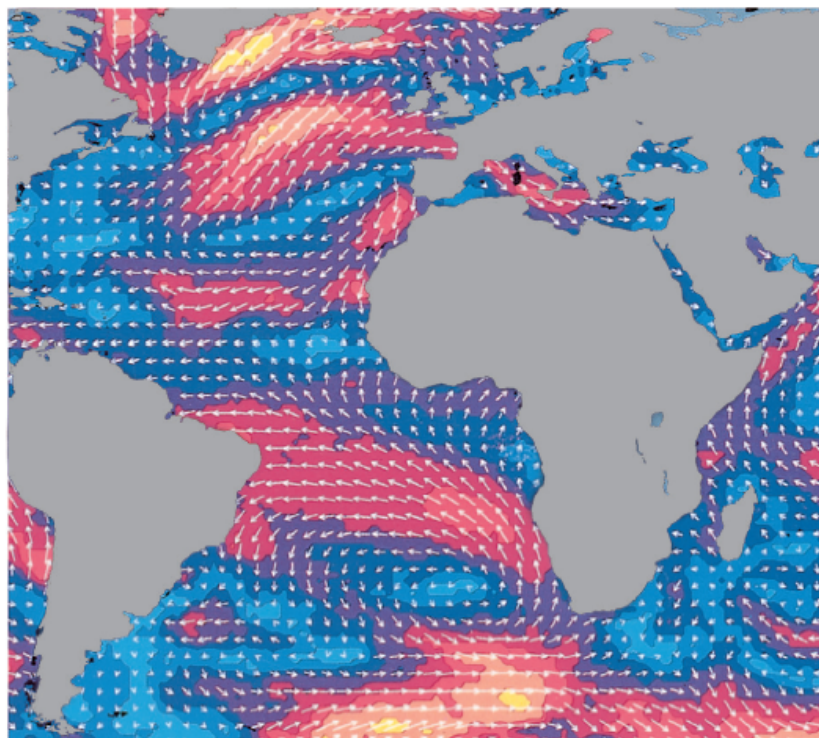


Field of normals



**Remark 15** NASA's Seasat used radar to take 350,000 wind measurements over the world's oceans. In the figure below, the arrows show wind direction; their length and the color contouring indicate speed: hence a vector field! Notice the heavy storm

south of Greenland.



## 4.1 Vector Calculus

**Definition 16** The derivative of a vector function  $\mathbf{v}(t) = [v_1(t), v_2(t), v_3(t)]$  is given as  $\mathbf{v}'(t) = [v'_1(t), v'_2(t), v'_3(t)]$ .

**Question:** (10ed-9.4-5) Let the temperature  $T$  in a body be independent of  $z$  so that it is given by a scalar function  $T = T(x, y)$ . Identify the isotherms  $T(x, y) = \text{const}$  for  $T(x, y) = \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}$ . Also sketch some of them.

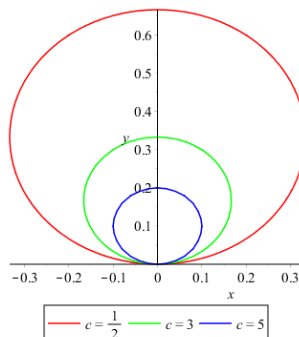
**Solution:** For isotherms put  $T(x, y) = \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} = c$ , where  $c$  is a constant. In such questions we try to unearth an equation of a familiar curve. Here denominator indicates something near to a circle, perhaps. So we proceed as follows:

$$\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} = c \Rightarrow \frac{x^2 + y^2}{y} = \frac{1}{c} \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = \frac{y}{c} \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 - \frac{y}{c} = 0$$

$$\text{Completing square } x^2 + y^2 - \frac{y}{c} + \left(\frac{1}{2c}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{2c}\right)^2 = 0$$

$$x^2 + \left(y - \frac{1}{2c}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4c^2}$$

Hence the isotherms for this scalar field are circles with centre  $(0, \frac{1}{2c})$  and radius  $\frac{1}{2c}$ . Isotherms for  $c = \frac{1}{2}, 3$  and  $5$  are sketched below:

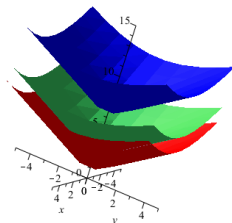


**Question:** (10ed-9.4-12) What kind of surfaces are the level surfaces  $f(x, y, z) = \text{const}$ , if  $f(x, y, z) = z - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ ?

**Solution:** For finding the level surfaces  $f(x, y, z) = z - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = c$  where  $c$  is a constant.

$$z - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = c \Rightarrow z - c = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

is a typical equation of one branch of hyperbola with origin at  $(0, 0, c)$ . For  $c = \frac{1}{2}, 2$  and  $6$  we have the sketches as



**Question:** (10ed-9.4-15) Sketch the vector field given by  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}$ .

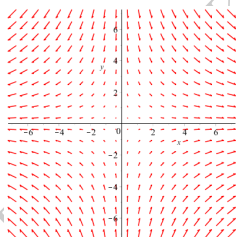
**Solution:** Consider some arbitrary points  $(1, 2)$ ,  $(7, 4)$  and  $(2, 6)$ . Then

$$\text{at point } (1, 2), \quad \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{5} = 2.2$$

$$\text{at point } (7, 4), \quad \mathbf{v} = 7\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{65} = 8.1$$

$$\text{at point } (2, 6), \quad \mathbf{v} = 2\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{40} = 6.3$$

Doing the same for enough points and then on each point draw an arrow in the direction of  $\mathbf{v}$  with length  $|\mathbf{v}|$  we get



**Question:** (10ed-9.4-24) Find the partial derivative of  $\mathbf{v}_1 = [e^x \cos y, e^x \sin y]$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = [\cos x \cosh y, -\sin x \sinh y]$ .

**Solution:**

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_1}{\partial x} = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (e^x \cos y), \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (e^x \sin y) \right] = [e^x \cos y, e^x \sin y]$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_1}{\partial y} = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (e^x \cos y), \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (e^x \sin y) \right] = [-e^x \sin y, e^x \cos y]$$

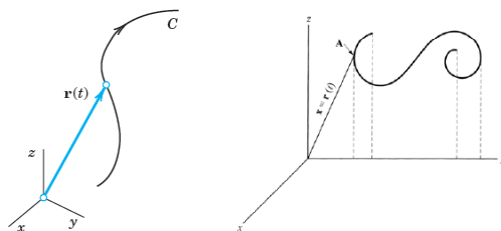
For  $\mathbf{v}_2$ ,

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_2}{\partial x} = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\cos x \cosh y), \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (-\sin x \sinh y) \right] = [-\sin x \cosh y, -\cos x \sinh y]$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_2}{\partial y} = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\cos x \cosh y), \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (-\sin x \sinh y) \right] = [\cos x \sinh y, -\sin x \cosh y] \quad \blacksquare$$

## 5 Curves and Arc Length

**Notation 17** A parametric representation of a space curve is given as  $\mathbf{r}(t) = [x(t), y(t), z(t)] = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j} + z(t)\mathbf{k}$ .



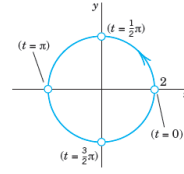
Such representation has two distinct advantages:

1. the coordinates  $x, y, z$  play an equal role, i.e. all three are dependent variables,

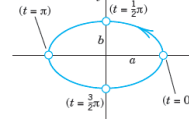
2. this representation induces an orientation, i.e. a beginning and an end equivalently a sense of direction, of the curve.

**Example 18** Following are few examples of space curves with their parametric representations:

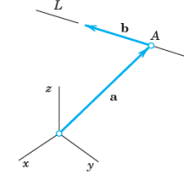
$$\mathbf{r}(t) = [a \cos t, b \sin t, 0] = a \cos(t) \mathbf{i} + b \sin(t) \mathbf{j}; \quad a = b$$



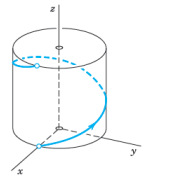
$$\mathbf{r}(t) = [a \cos t, b \sin t, 0] = a \cos(t) \mathbf{i} + b \sin(t) \mathbf{j}; \quad a \neq b$$



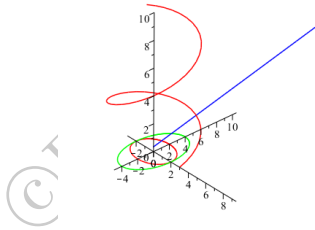
$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t = [a_1 + b_1 t, a_2 + b_2 t, a_3 + b_3 t]$$



$$\mathbf{r}(t) = [a \cos t, a \sin t, ct] = a \cos(t) \mathbf{i} + a \sin(t) \mathbf{j} + ct \mathbf{k}$$

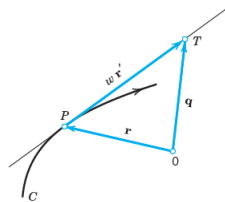


On a combined plot these are shown as:



**Definition 19** We have:

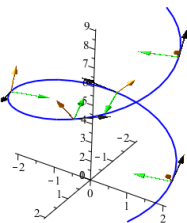
1. The tangent vector to the curve  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  at point  $P$  is  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ .
2. Unit tangent is computed as  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}'|} \mathbf{r}'$ . Both  $\mathbf{r}'$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  are in the direction of increasing  $t$  (a blessing of parametric notation!).
3. Vector equation of the tangent line passing through point  $P$  on curve  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is given as  $\mathbf{q}(w) = \mathbf{r} + w\mathbf{r}'$



4. Length of the curve  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  from  $t = a$  to an arbitrary point in  $t$  is given as  $s(t) = \int_a^t \sqrt{\mathbf{r}' \cdot \mathbf{r}'} d\tau$ , where  $\mathbf{r}' = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\tau}$ .
5. If a curve is representing the path of a moving body, as usually is the case in Mechanics, then velocity and acceleration of the body are given as  $\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{r}'(t)$  and  $\mathbf{a}(t) = \mathbf{v}'(t) = \mathbf{r}''(t)$ .
6. Acceleration vector has its tangential and normal components i.e.  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}_{\text{tan}} + \mathbf{a}_{\text{norm}}$ , which are obtained as  $\mathbf{a}_{\text{tan}} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} \mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{a}_{\text{norm}} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}_{\text{tan}}$ .

7. At any given point on a space curve we have three defining unit vectors:

- (a) a **unit tangent**,
- (b) a **unit normal** which is perpendicular to unit tangent but lies in the same plane as that of tangent, and
- (c) a **unit binormal**, which is perpendicular to both i.e. unit tangent and unit normal vectors.

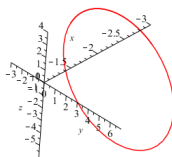


**Question:** (10ed-9.5-4,10) Sketch the curves  $[-2, 2 + 5 \cos t, -1 + 5 \sin t]$  and  $[t, 2, \frac{1}{t}]$ ?

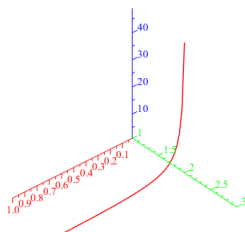
**Solution:** We compute the table as

$t$	$x$ -coord=-2	$y$ -coord= $2 + 5 \cos t$	$z$ -coord= $-1 + 5 \sin t$
0	-2	7	-1
2	-2	-0.008	3.5
3	-2	-2.9	-0.29
5	-2	3.4	-5.8

Carefully plotting yields:



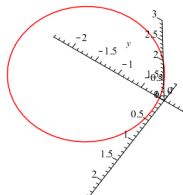
Similarly for  $[t, 2, \frac{1}{t}]$ , we have



**Question:** (10ed-9.5-11) Find parametric representation of a circle in the plane  $z = 2$  with centre  $(1, -1)$  and passing through origin.

**Solution:** Equation of a circle with centre  $(1, -1)$  is given as  $(x - 1)^2 + (y + 1)^2 = r^2$ . As  $(0, 0)$  is on the circle so we have  $(0 - 1)^2 + (0 + 1)^2 = r^2 \Rightarrow r = \sqrt{2}$

Parametric equation of circle with centre  $(h, k)$  and radius  $r$  is given as  $[h + r \cos t, k + r \sin t]$ . Hence the required parametric equation is  $[1 + \sqrt{2} \cos t, -1 + \sqrt{2} \sin t]$ . Sketch:

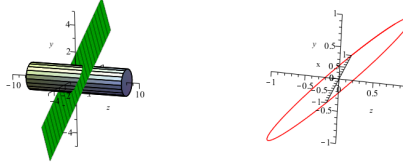


**Question:** (10ed-9.5-16) Find parametric representation of the intersection of the circular cylinder of radius 1 about  $z$ -axis and the plane  $z = y$ .

**Solution:** Equation of the cylinder is  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  and it calls for putting  $x = \cos t$  and  $y = \sin t$ . This gives the equation of plane as  $z = \sin t$ . Hence the parametric equation of the circle of intersection is given as

$$[\cos t, \sin t, \sin t]$$

Sketches are given as



■

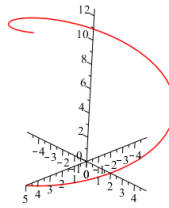
**Question:** (10ed-9.5-18) Helix:  $x^2 + y^2 = 25, z = 2 \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$ . Write its parametric equation.

**Solution:** Put  $x = 5 \cos t$  and  $y = 5 \sin t \Rightarrow z = 2 \arctan\left(\frac{5 \sin t}{5 \cos t}\right) = 2 \arctan(\tan t) = 2t$  Hence the parametric equation of the helix is given as

$$[5 \cos t, 5 \sin t, 2t]$$

Sketch:

$$[5 \cos(t), 5 \sin(t), 2t]$$



■

**Question:** (10ed-9.5-27) Given a curve  $C : \mathbf{r}(t) = [t, \frac{4}{t}, 0]$ , find tangent vector  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ , a unit tangent vector  $\mathbf{u}'(t)$  and tangent of  $C$  at  $P(4, 1, 0)$ .

**Solution:** Tangent vector:  $\mathbf{r}'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( [t, \frac{4}{t}, 0] \right) = [1, -\frac{4}{t^2}, 0]$

$$\text{Unit tangent vector: } \mathbf{u}' = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|} \mathbf{r}'(t) = \frac{1}{|[1, -\frac{4}{t^2}, 0]|} [1, -\frac{4}{t^2}, 0] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{16}{t^4} + 1}} [1, -\frac{4}{t^2}, 0] = \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{16}{t^4} + 1}}, -\frac{4}{t^2 \sqrt{\frac{16}{t^4} + 1}}, 0 \right]$$

Tangent line from  $P : q(w) = [4 + w, ]$

**Question:** (10ed-9.5-30) Find the length and sketch the curve given by  $\mathbf{r}(t) = [4 \cos t, 4 \sin t, 5t]$  from  $(4, 0, 0)$  to  $(4, 0, 10\pi)$ ?

**Solution:** We have the formula  $s(t) = \int_a^t \sqrt{\mathbf{r}' \cdot \mathbf{r}'} d\tau$ .

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \left[ \frac{d}{dt}(4 \cos t), \frac{d}{dt}(4 \sin t), \frac{d}{dt}(5t) \right] = [-4 \sin t, 4 \cos t, 5] \Rightarrow \mathbf{r}' \cdot \mathbf{r}' = 16 \cos^2 t + 16 \sin^2 t + 25$$

As the point  $(4, 0, 0)$  is on the curve, hence for some  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{r}(t) = (4 \cos t, 4 \sin t, 5t) = (4, 0, 0) \Rightarrow 5t = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0$ .

Also the second point  $(4, 0, 10\pi)$  is on the curve, hence for some  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{r}(t) = (4 \cos t, 4 \sin t, 5t) = (4, 0, 10\pi) \Rightarrow 5t = 10\pi \Rightarrow t = 2\pi$ .

Hence putting values in the formula

$$s = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{16 \cos^2 t + 16 \sin^2 t + 25} d\tau = 2\sqrt{41}\pi \quad \blacksquare$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.5-35) Find speed, velocity and tangential and normal acceleration for the parabola  $\mathbf{r}(t) = [t, 4t^2, 0]$ ?

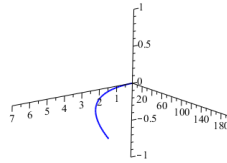
**Solution:**  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{r}'(t) = [1, 8t, 0]$

$$\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{r}''(t) = [0, 8, 0]$$

$$\mathbf{a}_{\tan} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} \mathbf{v} = \frac{[0, 8, 0] \cdot [1, 8t, 0]}{[1, 8t, 0] \cdot [1, 8t, 0]} [1, 8t, 0] = \frac{64t}{64t^2 + 1} [1, 8t, 0]$$

$$\mathbf{a}_{\text{norm}} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}_{\tan} = [0, 8, 0] - \frac{64t}{64t^2 + 1} [1, 8t, 0] = \left[ \frac{-64t}{64t^2 + 1}, 8 - \frac{512t^2}{64t^2 + 1}, 0 \right]$$

Sketch:



[1, 4π/2, 0]



**Question:** (10ed-9.5-46) A satellite in a circular orbit 450 miles above Earth's surface and completes 1 revolution in 100 min. Find the acceleration of gravity at the orbit from these data and from the radius of Earth (3960 miles).

**Solution:**  $R = 3960 + 450 = 4410$  mi.

$2\pi R = 100|\mathbf{v}|$  and  $\mathbf{v} = 277.1$  mi/min

$g = |\mathbf{a}| = \omega^2 R = \frac{|\mathbf{v}|^2}{R} = 17.41 \text{ mi/min}^2 = 25.53 \text{ ft/sec}^2 = 7.78 \text{ m/sec}^2$  ■

## 6 Gradient of a Scalar Field

**Definition 20** Gradient of a scalar function  $f(x, y, z)$  is denoted as  $\text{grad } f$  or  $\nabla f$  (read as **nabla**  $f$ ) and is defined as

$$\text{grad } f = \nabla f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right] = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$$

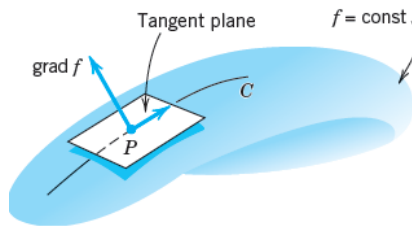
We also write the **differential operator** as  $\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$ .

**Remark 21** Major usages of gradient are as follows:

1. Rate of change of  $f(x, y, z)$  in any direction in space, technically called Directional Derivative.

**Definition 22** The directional derivative  $D_{\mathbf{a}} f$  of a scalar function  $f(x, y, z)$  at a point  $P$  in the direction of a vector  $\mathbf{a}$  is given as  $D_{\mathbf{a}} f = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{a}|} \mathbf{a} \cdot \text{grad } f$ .

2.  $\text{grad } f = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right]$  points in the direction of maximum increase of  $f(x, y, z)$ .
3. For a curve  $C = [x(t), y(t), z(t)]$  lying on a level surface  $f(x, y, z) = c = \text{const}$ ,  $\text{grad } f$  is normal vector of  $S$  at  $P$ .



4. Obtainig vector field from a scalar field: as the gradient of the scalar function. A vector field obtained in this manner is relatively easily studied using  $f(x, y, z)$  only. For such vector fields,  $f(x, y, z)$  is said to be its **potential**. Furthermore such vector field is said to be **conservative** if no energy is lost or gained in displacing a body from one point to another and then back.

**Definition 23** The potential  $f(x, y, z)$  of a conservative vector field satisfies the Laplace's equation, given as

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

It is universally agreed that Laplace equation is The Most Important partial differential equation in today's Physics and its numerous applications.

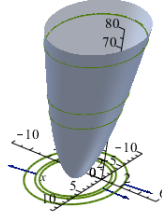


**Question:** (10ed-9.7-4) Find  $\text{grad } f$  where  $f = (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2$ . Graph some level curves  $f = \text{const}$ . Indicate  $\nabla f$  by arrows at some points of these curves.

**Solution:**  $\text{grad} \left( (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2 \right) = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right] \left( (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2 \right)$   
 $= \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2 \right), \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2 \right), \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2 \right) \right] = [2x - 4, 8y + 16, 0]$

We choose points  $(-1, 2)$ ,  $(2, 1)$  and  $(5, -5)$  for computation of gradient vectors. Sketch is given below:

Gradient Vectors



For the function  $f(x, y) = (x - 2)^2 + (2y + 4)^2$ , level curves, their projections to the  $xy$ -plane, and gradient vectors at the point(s)  $\{(-1, 2), (2, 1), (5, -5)\}$ .

**Question:** (10ed-9.7-10) Prove that  $\nabla^2 (fg) = g \nabla^2 f + 2 \nabla f \cdot \nabla g + f \nabla^2 g$

**Proof:**

$$\nabla^2 (fg) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (fg) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} (fg) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} (fg)$$

$$\text{Consider } \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (fg) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (fg) \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} g + f \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right) = \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

similar computation for  $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} (fg)$  and  $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} (fg)$  yield

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 (fg) &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (fg) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} (fg) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} (fg) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} g + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} g + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} g + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} g \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right) + \left( f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ &= g \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} \right) + 2 \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right) + f \left( \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ &= g \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} \right) + 2 \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right] \cdot \left[ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right] + f \left( \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ &= g \nabla^2 f + 2 \nabla f \cdot \nabla g + f \nabla^2 g \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

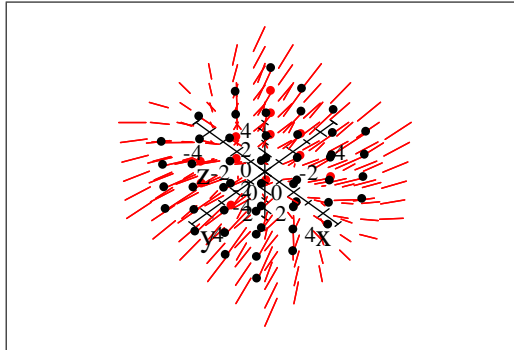
**Question:** (10ed-9.7-14) The force in an electric field given by  $f(x, y, z) = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  has the direction of the gradient. Find  $\nabla f$  and its value at  $P(12, 0, 16)$ ?

**Solution:**  $\nabla f = \nabla \left( (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right] \left( (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) = \frac{-1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} [x, y, z]$

$$\nabla f|_P = \left( \frac{-1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} [x, y, z] \right)_{x=12, y=0, z=16} = \frac{1}{500} \left[ \frac{-3}{4}, 0, -1 \right] = \frac{-3}{2000} \mathbf{i} - \frac{1}{500} \mathbf{k} \quad \blacksquare$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.7-16) For what points  $P(x, y, z)$  does  $\nabla f$  with  $f = 25x^2 + 9y^2 + 16z^2$  have the direction from  $P$  to the origin?

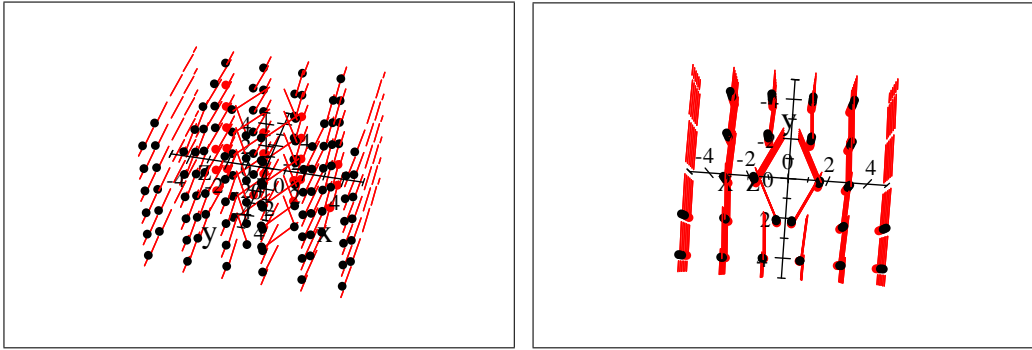
**Solution:**  $\nabla (25x^2 + 9y^2 + 16z^2) = [50x, 18y, 32z]$ . Presence of integer multiples of  $x, y$  and  $z$  only in the gradient indicates that all points on any of the three axes would have direction from  $P$  to origin. Sketch of gradient vector field is given as



■

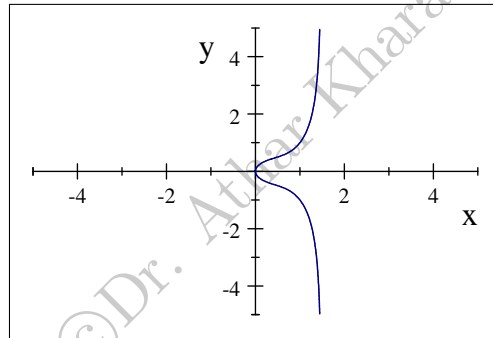
**Question:** (10ed-9.7-20) Given the velocity potential  $f = x(1 + (x^2 + y^2)^{-1})$ , find the velocity  $\mathbf{v} = \nabla f$  of the field and its value  $\mathbf{v}(P)$  at  $P$ . Sketch  $\mathbf{v}(P)$  and the curve  $f = \text{const}$  passing through  $P(1, 1)$ ?

**Solution:**  $\mathbf{v} = \nabla f = \nabla \left( x(1 + (x^2 + y^2)^{-1}) \right) = \left[ \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{2x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} + 1, -2x \frac{y}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, 0 \right]$  and this velocity field is sketched below (two different views) as follows:



$$\mathbf{v}(P) = \left[ \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{2x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} + 1, -2x \frac{y}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, 0 \right]_{x=1, y=1} = \left[ 1, -\frac{1}{2}, 0 \right]$$

Equation of curve is of the form  $x(1 + (x^2 + y^2)^{-1}) = c$ , since the curve has to pass through  $P(1, 1)$ , hence to find  $c$  put  $x = 1, y = 1$  in  $f$  i.e.  $x(1 + (x^2 + y^2)^{-1})|_{(1,1)} = \frac{3}{2} = c$ . Equation of curve passing through  $P(1, 1)$  is  $x(1 + (x^2 + y^2)^{-1}) = \frac{3}{2}$ . Sketch of the required curve is given as:



■

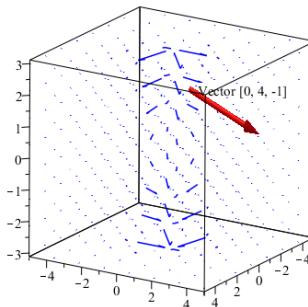
**Question:** (10ed-9.7-25) Experiments show that in a temperature field, heat flows in the direction of maximum decrease of temperature  $T = \frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2)}$ . Find this direction in general and at the given point  $P(0, 1, 2)$ . Sketch that direction at  $P$  as an arrow.

**Solution:** As  $\nabla f$  points in the direction of maximum increase hence

$$\text{Direction of maximum decrease} = -\nabla T = -\nabla \left( \frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2)} \right) = \left[ \frac{2xz}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \frac{2yz}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, -\frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} \right]$$

$$\text{Direction of maximum decrease at } P = \left[ \frac{2xz}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \frac{2yz}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, -\frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} \right]_{x=0, y=1, z=2} = [0, 4, -1]$$

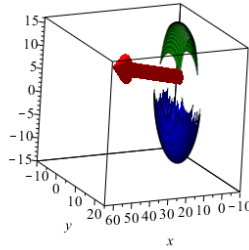
Sketch of general direction of the field and at point  $P$  are given as



■

**Question:** (10ed-9.7-33) Find the normal vector of the surface  $6x^2 + 2y^2 + z^2 = 225$  at the point  $P(5, 5, 5)$ ?

**Solution:** Since on a surface  $f(x, y, z) = \text{const}$  normal vector is given by  $\nabla f$ , hence we compute  $\nabla(6x^2 + 2y^2 + z^2) = [12x, 4y, 2z]$  and the normal at the given point  $= [12x, 4y, 2z]_{x=5, y=5, z=5} = [60, 20, 10]$ . We sketch the surface and the normal as



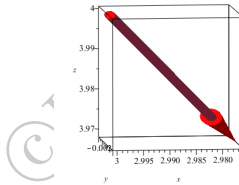
■

**Question:** (10ed-9.7-39) Find directional derivative of  $f(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$  at  $P(3, 0, 4)$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{a} = [1, 1, 1]$ . Also sketch it.

**Solution:** We have  $D_{\mathbf{a}}f = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{a}|} \mathbf{a} \cdot \text{grad } f$ . So we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grad } f &= \nabla \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right) = \left[ -\frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, -\frac{y}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, -\frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right] \\ D_{\mathbf{a}}f &= \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right] \cdot \left[ -\frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, -\frac{y}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, -\frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right] \\ D_{\mathbf{a}}f|_{(3,0,4)} &= \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right] \cdot \left[ -\frac{3}{(3^2 + 0^2 + 4^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, -\frac{0}{(3^2 + 0^2 + 4^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, -\frac{4}{(3^2 + 0^2 + 4^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right]_{(3,0,4)} \\ &= \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right] \cdot \left[ -\frac{3}{125}, 0, -\frac{4}{125} \right] = -\frac{7}{375} \sqrt{3} = -.032 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the required vector is  $\left[ -\frac{3}{125}, 0, -\frac{4}{125} \right]$  at the point  $P(3, 0, 4)$  and is sketched as:



■

**Question:** Find a potential  $f = \text{grad } f$  for the given  $\mathbf{v}(x, y, z) = [ye^x, e^x, z^2]$ .

**Solution:** By examining  $\mathbf{v} = [ye^x, e^x, z^2]$ , we conclude that  $f(x, y, z) = ye^x + \frac{1}{3}z^3$ , because

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grad } f &= \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) f(x, y, z) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \left( ye^x + \frac{1}{3}z^3 \right) \\ &= [ye^x, e^x, z^2] \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Question:** Find a unit normal vector  $\mathbf{n}$  of the cone of revolution  $z^2 = 4(x^2 + y^2)$  at the point  $P : (1, 0, 2)$

**Solution:** The cone is the level surface  $f = 0$  of  $f(x, y, z) = 4(x^2 + y^2) - z^2$ . Thus

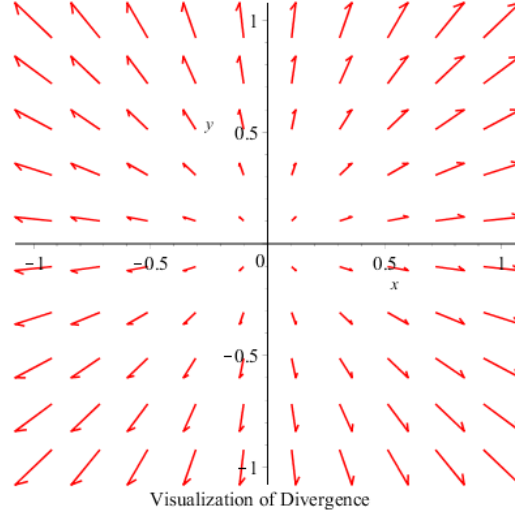
$$\begin{aligned} \nabla f &= [8x, 8y, -2z], \quad \nabla f(P) = [8, 0, -4] \\ \mathbf{n} &= \frac{1}{|\nabla f(P)|} \nabla f(P) = \left[ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}, 0, \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{n}$  points downward since it has a negative  $z$ -component. The other unit normal vector of the cone at  $P$  is  $-\mathbf{n}$ . ■

## 7 Divergence of a Vector Field

From a scalar field we can obtain a vector field by the gradient. Conversely, from a vector field we can obtain a scalar field by the divergence or another vector field by the curl.

**Definition 24** For a differentiable vector function  $\mathbf{v}(x, y, z) = [v_1(x, y, z), v_2(x, y, z), v_3(x, y, z)]$ , the divergence is denoted and defined as  $\text{div } \mathbf{v} = \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial z}$ .



**Remark 25** 1.  $\text{div } \mathbf{v}$  is also denoted as  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$  because  $\text{div } \mathbf{v} = \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial z} = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathbf{k} \right] \cdot [v_1 \mathbf{i} + v_2 \mathbf{j} + v_3 \mathbf{k}] = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$

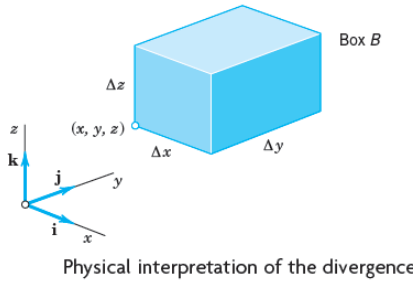
2. If  $\mathbf{v} = \text{grad}(f)$  and  $f$  is twice differentiable scalar function  $f(x, y, z)$ , we have  $\text{div } \mathbf{v} = \text{div}(\text{grad } f) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} = \nabla^2 f$ .

We now intend to present a physical interpretation of the notion of divergence. For this we need following definitions:

**Definition 26** **Flux** is the total loss of mass leaving an object per unit of time. **Compressible fluid** is the fluid whose density  $\rho$  (mass per unit volume) depends upon coordinates  $x, y, z$  (and possibly on time  $t$ ). Examples are gases and vapors. Water is an incompressible fluid. If density  $\rho$  is independent of time  $t$ , the flow is said to be **steady**.

**Question:** Give a physical interpretation of divergence? OR Derive equation of continuity for fluids?

**Derivation:** Consider motion of a compressible fluid in region  $R$  with no source or sink in  $R$ . Consider flow of the fluid through the box  $B$  with volume  $\Delta V = \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$  (here  $\Delta$  is denoting a small quantity and not the Laplacian).



Let  $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, v_2, v_3] = v_1 \mathbf{i} + v_2 \mathbf{j} + v_3 \mathbf{k}$  be the velocity vector of the motion. We set

$$\mathbf{u} = \rho \mathbf{v} = [u_1, u_2, u_3] = u_1 \mathbf{i} + u_2 \mathbf{j} + u_3 \mathbf{k}$$

Consider the flow through the  $xz$  face whose area is  $\Delta x \Delta z$ . Since the vectors  $v_1 \mathbf{i}$  and  $v_3 \mathbf{k}$  are parallel to  $xz$  face, the components  $v_1$  and  $v_3$  contribute nothing to this flow.

Hence the mass of fluid entering through  $xz$  face during a short time interval  $\Delta t$  is

$$(\rho v_2) \Delta x \Delta z \Delta t = (u_2)_y \Delta x \Delta z \Delta t$$

and the mass leaving from opposite face is  $(u_2)_{y+\Delta y} \Delta x \Delta z \Delta t$ . Hence the difference

$$\Delta u_2 \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z = \frac{\Delta u_2}{\Delta y} \Delta y \Delta t \quad \text{where} \quad \Delta u_2 = (u_2)_{y+\Delta y} - (u_2)_y$$

is the approximate loss of mass. Other two faces also give similar expressions and the total loss of mass in  $B$  during the time interval  $\Delta t$  is approximately

$$\left( \frac{\Delta u_1}{\Delta x} + \frac{\Delta u_2}{\Delta y} + \frac{\Delta u_3}{\Delta z} \right) \Delta V \Delta t \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta u_1 = (u_1)_{x+\Delta x} - (u_1)_x$  and  $\Delta u_3 = (u_3)_{z+\Delta z} - (u_3)_z$ .

This loss of mass in  $B$  is caused by the time rate of change of the density and is thus equals to

$$-\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \Delta V \Delta t \quad (2)$$

Equating (1) and (2) and letting small changes approach to zero we get

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} &= \operatorname{div}(\rho \mathbf{v}) = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \operatorname{div}(\rho \mathbf{v}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

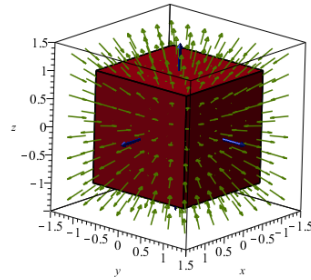
is the ‘**equation of continuity** of a compressible fluid flow’ also called ‘condition for the coservation of mass’.

If the flow is steady then  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$  and the equation becomes  $\operatorname{div}(\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0$  and if the density is constant i.e. the fluid is incompressible then  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} = 0$ . ■

**Question:** (10ed-9.8-5) Find  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}$  at  $P(-1, 3, -2)$  where  $\mathbf{v} = [x^2yz, xy^2z, xyz^2]$ ?

**Solution:**  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} = \operatorname{div}([x^2yz, xy^2z, xyz^2]) = 6xyz \Rightarrow \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}|_{P(-1,3,-2)} = 6(-1 \times 3 \times -2) = 36$

The vector field  $\mathbf{v} = [x^2yz, xy^2z, xyz^2]$  around a box is sketched below:



The vector field arrows, the surface through which the field passes, and vectors normal to the surface. ■

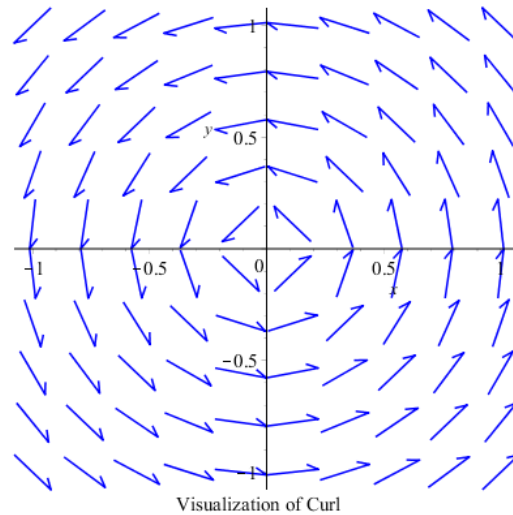
**Question:** (10ed-9.8-17) Find  $\nabla^2 f$  by the formula  $\nabla^2 f = \operatorname{div}(\operatorname{grad} f)$ , where  $f = \ln(x^2 + y^2)$ ?

**Solution:**  $\nabla^2 f = \operatorname{div}(\operatorname{grad} f) = \operatorname{div}(\operatorname{grad}(\ln(x^2 + y^2))) = \operatorname{div}\left(\left[\frac{2x}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{2y}{x^2+y^2}, 0\right]\right) = \frac{4}{x^2+y^2} - \frac{4y^2}{(x^2+y^2)^2} - \frac{4x^2}{(x^2+y^2)^2} = 0$  ■

## 8 Curl of a Vector Field

**Definition 27** Curl of a vector function  $\mathbf{v}(x, y, z) = [v_1(x, y, z), v_2(x, y, z), v_3(x, y, z)]$  is defined as

$$\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{v} = \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix}$$



Visualization of Curl

**Remark 28** We have:

1. **Gradient fields are irrotational.** That is, if a continuously differentiable vector function is the gradient of a scalar function, then its curl is the zero vector,

$$\operatorname{curl}(\operatorname{grad} f) = \mathbf{0}$$

2. Furthermore, the divergence of the curl of a twice continuously differentiable vector function  $\mathbf{v}$  is zero,

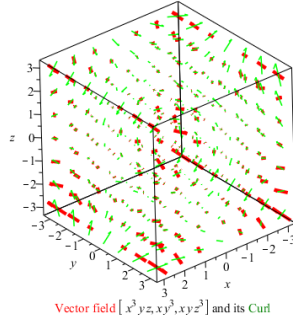
$$\operatorname{div}(\operatorname{curl} f) = 0.$$

**Question:** (10ed-9.9-5) Find  $\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{v}$  for  $\mathbf{v} = xyz [x^2, y^2, z^2]$ ?

**Solution:**  $\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{v} = \operatorname{curl} (xyz [x^2, y^2, z^2])$

$$= \operatorname{curl} ([x^3yz, xy^3z, xyz^3]) = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x^3yz & xy^3z & xyz^3 \end{vmatrix} = (xz^3 - xy^3)\mathbf{i} + (x^3y - yz^3)\mathbf{j} + (y^3z - x^3z)\mathbf{k}$$

The vector field and its curl are sketched below:



**Question:** (10ed-9.9-10) Let  $\mathbf{v} = [\sec x, \csc x, 0]$  be the velocity vector of a steady fluid flow. Is the flow irrotational? Incompressible? Find the streamlines (the paths of the particles).

**Solution:**  $\operatorname{curl} ([\sec x, \csc x, 0]) = -\frac{\cos x}{\sin^2 x} \mathbf{k} \neq \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow$  Not irrotational.

$\operatorname{div} ([\sec x, \csc x, 0]) = \frac{1}{\cos^2 x} \sin x \neq 0 \Rightarrow$  Compressible. ■

**Question:** (10ed-9.9-11) Let  $\mathbf{v} = [y, -2x, 0]$  be the velocity vector of a steady fluid flow. Is the flow irrotational? Incompressible? Find the streamlines (the paths of the particles).

**Solution:**  $\operatorname{curl} (\mathbf{v}) = \operatorname{curl} ([y, -2x, 0]) = -3\mathbf{k} \neq \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow$  Not irrotational.

$\operatorname{div} ([y, -2x, 0]) = 0 \Rightarrow$  incompressible. ■