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LEC 27

2025.1.23

Vector Fields in space

work and flux

$$\vec{F} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$$

Example: force field (gravitational attraction of a solid mass at $(0,0,0)$ on a mass m at (x, y, z))

\vec{F} direct towards origin, magnitude $\frac{c}{r^3}$

$$\vec{F} = -c \frac{\langle x, y, z \rangle}{r^3}$$

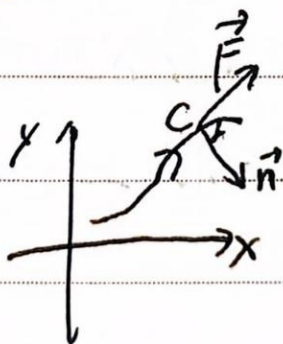
Electric field, ...

b) Velocity Field

c) gradient fields $u = u(x, y, z)$ $\nabla u = \langle u_x, u_y, u_z \rangle$

Flux:

recall, in 2D



$$\int_C (M dy - N dx)$$

$$\text{flux} = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

$$(\equiv \iint_R (M_x + N_y) dA)$$

In 3D, flux through a surface

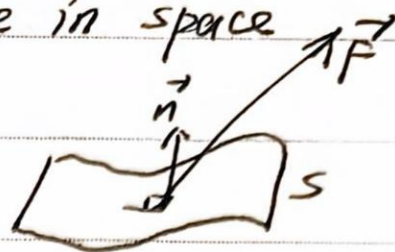


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Ex: \vec{F} a vector field, S surface in space
 \hat{n} = unit normal vector



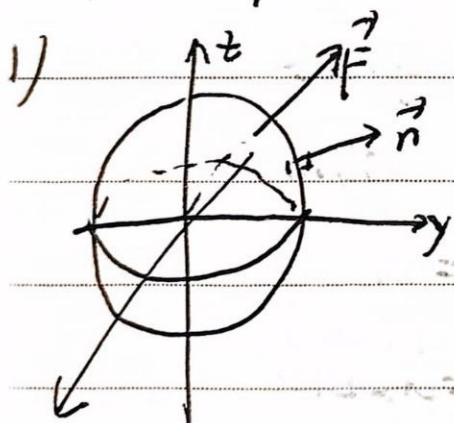
to two sides of surface (often is up)

$$\text{Flux} = \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \cdot d\vec{S}$$

↳ surface area element

Notation: $d\vec{S} = \hat{n} \cdot dS$

Example: (1) Flux of $\vec{F} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ through sphere of radius a at origin



$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{S} = \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, dS$$

$$\hat{n} = \frac{\langle x, y, z \rangle}{a}$$

$$\vec{F} \parallel \hat{n}$$

($\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = a$ on sphere)

$$\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = |\vec{F}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = a$$

$$= \iint_S a \, dS = a \iint_S dS = a \cdot 4\pi a^2 = 4\pi a^3$$

2) Same sphere, $\vec{H} = z \hat{k}$

$$\vec{H} \cdot \hat{n} = \langle 0, 0, z \rangle \cdot \frac{\langle x, y, z \rangle}{a} = \langle 0, 0, \frac{z^2}{a} \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \iint_S \vec{H} \cdot \hat{n} \, dS = \iint_S \frac{z^2}{a} \, dS \quad dS = a^2 \sin\phi \, d\phi \, d\theta \text{ (use spherical coordinates)}$$

spherical coordinates



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$$z = a \cos \phi$$

$$\Rightarrow \iiint_S \frac{z^2}{a} dS = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \frac{a^2 \cos^2 \phi}{a} \cdot a^2 \sin \phi d\phi d\theta$$

$$= (a^3 \cdot [-\frac{1}{3} \cos^3 \phi]_0^\pi) \cdot 2\pi$$

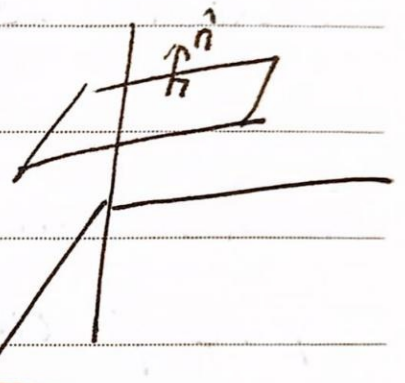
$$= \frac{4}{3} \pi a^3$$

Conclusions

① use geometry or need to set up $\iint_S \hat{n} dS$

Q) $S = \text{Horizontal plane } z = a$

$$\hat{n} = \pm \hat{k}, \quad dS = dx dy$$



0.1) vertical plane // $y-z$ plane

$$x = a \Rightarrow \hat{n} = \pm \hat{i}, \quad dS = dy dz$$

1) sphere of radius a centred origin

$$\hat{n} = \langle x, y, z \rangle / a$$

$$dS = a^2 \sin \phi d\phi d\theta$$

$$\begin{cases} z = a \cos \phi \\ x = a \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ y = a \sin \phi \sin \theta \end{cases}$$

spherical

spherical

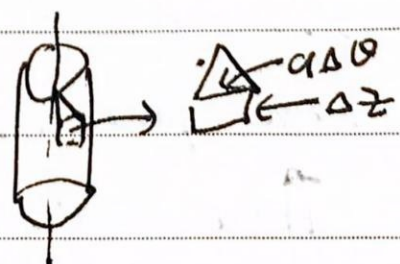
2) cylinder of radius a / z -axis

coordinates



$$\hat{n} = \frac{1}{a} \langle x, y, 0 \rangle$$

$$dS = a dz d\theta$$





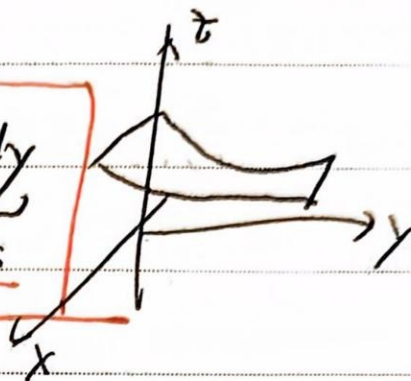
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(3) graph $z = f(x, y)$

$$\vec{n} \cdot d\vec{S} = \underbrace{\langle -f_x, -f_y, 1 \rangle}_{\text{not } \vec{n}} \underbrace{dx dy}_{\text{not } d\vec{S}}$$



To set up bounds $\iint \dots dx dy$, look at shadow of S in xy -plane

Geometric interpretation:

If \vec{F} is a velocity field, Flux = amount of matter through S per unit time.

$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{S} \quad \text{if } \vec{v} = \vec{F}.$$