

1. Verify divergence theorem for the vector function  $\vec{A} = \vec{r}$ . The region is a spherical surface of radius  $a$  with the center at the origin.

**soln:**

On the surface of the sphere the normal is along  $\hat{r}$ . So the surface integral is

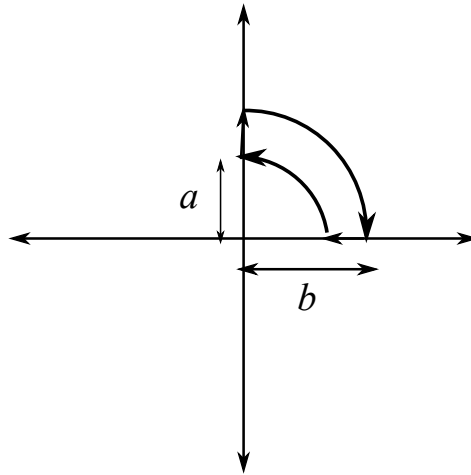
$$\oint_S \vec{A} \cdot \hat{n} ds = \oint_S \vec{r} \cdot \hat{r} ds = \oint_S a ds = a \oint_S ds = 4\pi a^3$$

$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{r} = 3$ . So

$$\int_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} dV = \int_V 3 dV = 3 \left( \frac{4}{3} \pi a^3 \right) = 4\pi a^3$$

$$\therefore \int_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} dV = \oint_S \vec{A} \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

2. Verify stokes' theorem for the vector field  $\vec{A} = (y\hat{i} - x\hat{j})/(x^2 + y^2)$  over the region shown in the figure. The loop consists of a quarter arc of two concentric circles of radii  $a$  and  $b$  and two straight paths along the  $y$  and the  $x$  axes.



**soln**

At every point on the xy plane the vector field has a magnitude  $\sqrt{y^2 + x^2}/(x^2 + y^2) = 1/\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ .

Along the inner circular arc the magnitude of  $\vec{A}$  is  $1/a$  while along the outer circle the magnitude is  $1/b$ .

The direction of  $\vec{A}$  is tangential to the circular arcs.

Along the inner circle it is opposite to the direction in which we traverse the circle, i.e,

opposite to  $\vec{dl}$ .

So along the inner circle

$$\int \vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = \int -\frac{1}{a} dl$$

Along the circular arc  $dl = ad\theta$

$$\therefore \int_{C_1} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = \int_0^{\pi/2} -\frac{1}{a} ad\theta = -\frac{\pi}{2}$$

Along the outer arc  $\vec{A}$  is along  $\vec{dl}$ .

$|\vec{A}| = 1/b$  and  $dl = bd\theta$ .

$$\therefore \int_{C_2} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{b} bd\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

So the line integral along these two arcs cancel each other. Along the  $y$  axis  $\vec{A} = \hat{i}/y$ .

But  $\vec{dl} = \hat{j}dl$ . So  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0$ .

Similarly along the straight path along the  $x$  axis  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = 0$ . So the two straight paths don't contribute anything to the loop integrals. So we have

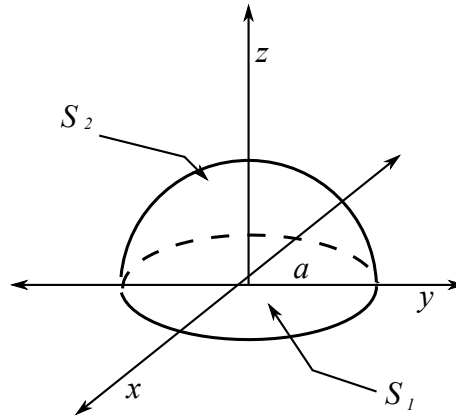
$$\oint \vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = -\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2} = 0$$

$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = 0$  everywhere except the origin.

$$\therefore \int (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds = 0$$

This satisfies the Stokes' theorem.

3. Verify Stokes' Theorem for the vector field  $\vec{A} = (y\hat{i} - x\hat{j})$  over a region bounded by a circle of radius  $a$  on the  $xy$  plane in the following two cases as shown in the figure:



- (a) The region is  $S_1$  the flat circular disk of radius  $a$  on the  $xy$  plane.

(b) The region is  $S_2$  the hemisphere over the xy plane with center at the origin

**soln**

Let us traverse the circular loop clockwise. Then  $\vec{A}$  is along  $\vec{dl}$ .  $|\vec{A}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = a$  along the circle.

$$\therefore \oint \vec{A} \cdot \vec{dl} = \int_0^{2\pi} a^2 d\phi = 2\pi a^2$$

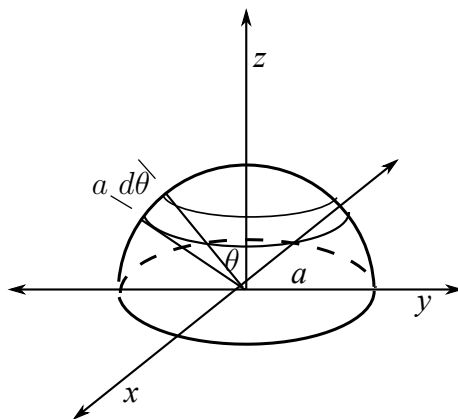
We note that  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = -2\hat{k}$  everywhere. This is common for both the parts

(a) Along the surface  $S_1$  the normal is along  $-\hat{k}$  everywhere.

$$\therefore \int_{S_1} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds = \int_{S_1} 2 ds = 2\pi a^2$$

So Stokes' theorem is valid when we consider surface  $S_1$  bounded by the loop

(b) Over the surface  $S_2$  the normal every where is along  $-\hat{r}$ . To do the surface integral over this surface consider a narrow strip (see fig) of the sphere parallel to the equator of width  $a d\theta$ . The points on this strip makes an angle  $\theta$  with the z axis.



$$\therefore (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} = -2\hat{k} \cdot (-\hat{r}) = 2 \cos \theta.$$

The contribution to the surface integral from this strip is

$$2 \cos \theta \times \text{area of the strip} = 2\pi a^2 \sin 2\theta d\theta$$

$$\int_{S_2} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds = \int_0^{\pi/2} 2\pi a^2 \sin 2\theta d\theta = 2\pi a^2$$

So Stokes theorem is valid also for the curved surface  $S_2$ .

4. If  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = 0$  then show that there is a scalar function  $F(\vec{r})$  such that  $\vec{\nabla} F = \vec{A}$ .

Consider the origin and some point in space  $\vec{r}$ .

Let  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  be two different curves from the origin to the position  $\vec{r}$ . Consider a

loop forward along  $C_1$  and backward along  $C_2$ . The line integral  $\int \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l}$  is zero over this closed loop by stokes' theorem since  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = 0$ . Hence we have

$$\int_{C_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{C_2} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

This shows that the value of the line integral from origin to the point  $\vec{r}$  is independent of the curve. So we can write

$$\int_0^{\vec{r}} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} = F(\vec{r})$$

Now if  $\vec{r}$  changes by a small amount  $d\vec{r}$  then the change in  $F$ , is given as  $\vec{\nabla} F \cdot d\vec{r}$ . The small change in the integral on the l.h.s is  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{r}$ . Since this is true for any arbitrary  $d\vec{r}$  we have

$$\vec{\nabla} F = \vec{A}(\vec{r})$$

An explicit form of  $F$  can be evaluated as follows:

$$F(x, y, z) = \int_0^x A_x(x', y', z') dx' + \int_0^y A_y(x', y', z') dy' + \int_0^z A_z(x', y', z') dz'$$

We have considered the lower limit of the integral to be the origin. But one can choose any point as the lower limit. This will only add a constant to the function we obtained. The scalar function can be determined upto a constant as usual in any integral calculus.

5. Use the divergence theorem and the stokes' theorem to show that  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = 0$  for any vector field  $\vec{A}$ .

**soln**

Consider a closed surface  $S$  enclosing a volume  $V$ . Let us calculate

$$\oint_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

over this surface. We can break the closed surface into two parts like we break a coconut shell. Let us call the two parts of the broken surfaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .

Then we have the integral as

$$\int_{S_1} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds + \int_{S_2} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

Let  $C$  be the closed curve along which lies the boundary of the surfaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . By Stokes' theorem we have

$$\oint_C \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{S_1} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds = \int_{S_2} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot (-\hat{n}) ds$$

Here we have to invert the direction of the normals in one of the integrals over the surfaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . This depends upon the sense of traversing along the curve  $C$ .

Thus the value of the integral in Eq.(5) is 0.

$$\therefore \oint_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds = 0$$

If  $V$  is the volume enclosed by the surface  $S$  then by divergence theorem

$$\int_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) dV = \oint_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} ds = 0$$

Since the volume integral will be 0 for any volume we conclude the function in the integrand is identically 0  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = 0$ .

6. Show that

$$\int_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) f \cdot \hat{n} da = \int_S (\vec{A} \times \vec{\nabla} f) \cdot \hat{n} da + \oint_C f \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

where  $C$  is a closed curve enclosing a surface  $S$ .

**soln**

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (f \vec{A}) = \vec{\nabla} f \times \vec{A} + f(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A})$$

Using Stokes' theorem we get

$$\begin{aligned} \oint_C f \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} &= \int_S (\vec{\nabla} \times (f \vec{A})) \cdot \hat{n} da \\ &= \int_S (\vec{\nabla} f \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} da + \int_S f(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} da \\ &= - \int_S (\vec{A} \times \vec{\nabla} f) \cdot \hat{n} da + \int_S f(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) \cdot \hat{n} da \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Rearranging the terms we get the required expression.