

13.27. DIVERGENCE THEOREM OF GAUSS (Relation between surface and volume integrals)

If \vec{F} is a vector point function having continuous first order partial derivatives in the region V bounded by a closed surface S , then $\iiint_V \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dV = \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS$, where \hat{n} is the outwards drawn unit normal vector to the surface S .

[i.e., the volume integral of the divergence of a vector point function \vec{F} taken over the volume V enclosed by a surface S , is equal to the surface integral of the normal component of \vec{F} taken over the closed surface S].

Let $\vec{F} = F_1 \hat{i} + F_2 \hat{j} + F_3 \hat{k}$, then

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \text{div } \vec{F} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z}$$

Let α, β, γ be the angles which the outwards drawn unit normal vector \hat{n} makes with the positive directions of x, y, z -axes respectively, then $\cos \alpha, \cos \beta, \cos \gamma$ are the direction cosines of \hat{n} and $\hat{n} = \cos \alpha \hat{i} + \cos \beta \hat{j} + \cos \gamma \hat{k}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} &= (F_1 \hat{i} + F_2 \hat{j} + F_3 \hat{k}) \cdot (\cos \alpha \hat{i} + \cos \beta \hat{j} + \cos \gamma \hat{k}) \\ &= F_1 \cos \alpha + F_2 \cos \beta + F_3 \cos \gamma \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the cartesian equivalent of divergence theorem is $\iiint_V \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} \right) dx dy dz$

$$= \iint_S (F_1 \cos \alpha + F_2 \cos \beta + F_3 \cos \gamma) dS$$

...(1)

$$= \iint_S (F_1 dy dz + F_2 dz dx + F_3 dx dy)$$

since $\cos \alpha dS = dy dz$, etc.

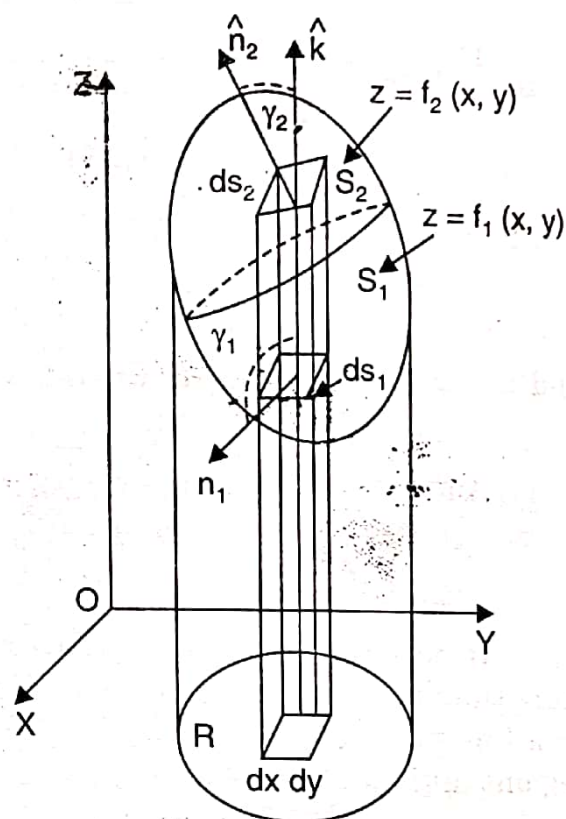
Suppose that S is such a closed surface that a line parallel to the co-ordinate axes meets it in two points only. Let S_1 and S_2 denote the lower and upper portions of S with equations $z = f_1(x, y)$ and $z = f_2(x, y)$ respectively.

Let R be the projection of S on the xy -plane, then

$$\begin{aligned} \iiint_V \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} dx dy dz &= \iint_R \left[\int_{z=f_1(x,y)}^{z=f_2(x,y)} \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} dz \right] dx dy \\ &= \iint_R \left[F_3(x, y, z) \right]_{f_1}^{f_2} dx dy = \iint_R [F_3(x, y, f_2) - F_3(x, y, f_1)] dx dy \\ &= \iint_R F_3(x, y, f_2) dx dy - \iint_R F_3(x, y, f_1) dx dy \end{aligned} \quad \dots(2)$$

Now for the upper portion S_2 of S , the normal \hat{n}_2 to S_2 makes an acute angle γ_2 with \hat{k} .

$$dx dy = \cos \gamma_2 dS_2 = \hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}_2 dS_2$$



For the lower portion S_1 of S , the normal \hat{n}_1 to S_1 makes an obtuse angle γ_1 with \hat{k} .

$$\therefore dx dy = -\cos \gamma_1 dS_1 = -\hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}_1 dS_1$$

$$\therefore \iint_R F_3(x, y, f_2) dx dy = \iint_{S_2} F_3 \hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}_2 dS_2 \quad \dots(3)$$

and $\iint_R F_3(x, y, f_1) dx dy = -\iint_{S_1} F_3 \hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}_1 dS_1 \quad \dots(4)$

Using (3) and (4), (2) becomes
$$\iiint_V \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} dx dy dz = \iint_{S_2} F_3 \hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}_2 dS_2 + \iint_{S_1} F_3 \hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}_1 dS_1$$

$$= \iint_S F_3 \hat{k} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_R F_3 \cos \gamma dS \quad \dots(5)$$

Similarly, by considering the projection of S on yz and zx -planes, we have

$$\iiint_V \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} dx dy dz = \iint_S F_1 \hat{i} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_S F_1 \cos \alpha dS \quad \dots(6)$$

and $\iiint_V \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} dx dy dz = \iint_S F_2 \hat{j} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_S F_2 \cos \beta dS \quad \dots(7)$

Adding (5), (6) and (7), we get (1) i.e.,
$$\iiint_V \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} \right) dx dy dz$$

$$= \iint_S (F_1 \cos \alpha + F_2 \cos \beta + F_3 \cos \gamma) dS \quad \text{or} \quad \iiint_V \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dV = \iint_R \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$

In case the region be such that the lines drawn parallel to the coordinate axes meet it in more than two points, then we divide the region into various sub-regions each of which is met by a line parallel to any axis in only two points. Applying the theorem to each of these sub-regions and adding the results, we get the volume integral over the whole region.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

Example 1. For any closed surface S , prove that $\iint_S \text{curl } \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = 0$.

Sol. By the divergence theorem, we have $\iint_S \text{curl } \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iiint_V (\text{div curl } \vec{F}) dV$,

where V is the volume enclosed by $S = 0$. Since $\text{div curl } \vec{F} = 0$, therefore, $\iint_S \text{curl } \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = 0$

Example 2. Evaluate $\iint_S \vec{r} \cdot \hat{n} dS$, where S is a closed surface.

Sol. By the divergence theorem, we have $\iint_S \vec{r} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iiint_V \nabla \cdot \vec{r} dV$,

where V is the volume enclosed by S

$$= \iiint_V 3dV, \text{ since } \nabla \cdot \vec{r} = \text{div } \vec{r} = 3$$

$$= 3V.$$

Example 3. Use divergence theorem to show that $\oint_S \nabla r^2 \cdot d\vec{S} = 6V$, where S is any closed surface enclosing a volume V .

Sol. By the divergence theorem, we have $\oint_S \nabla r^2 d\vec{S} = \int_V \text{div}(\nabla r^2) dV$

$$= \int_V \nabla \cdot (\nabla r^2) dV = \int_V \nabla^2 r^2 dV$$

$$= \int_V \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) (x^2 + y^2 + z^2) dV = \int_V 6 dV = 6V.$$

Example 4. Verify divergence theorem for $\vec{F} = (x^2 - yz)\hat{i} + (y^2 - zx)\hat{j} + (z^2 - xy)\hat{k}$ taken over the rectangular parallelepiped $0 \leq x \leq a, 0 \leq y \leq b, 0 \leq z \leq c$.

Sol. For verification of divergence theorem, we shall evaluate the volume and surface integrals separately and show that they are equal.

Now $\text{div } \vec{F} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2 - yz) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (y^2 - zx) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (z^2 - xy)$

$$= 2(x + y + z)$$

$\therefore \iiint_V \text{div } \vec{F} dV$

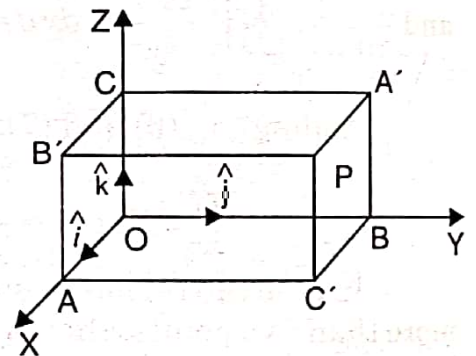
$$= \int_0^c \int_0^b \int_0^a 2(x + y + z) dx dy dz$$

$$= \int_0^c \int_0^b 2 \left[\frac{x^2}{2} + yx + zx \right]_0^a dy dz$$

$$= \int_0^c \int_0^b 2 \left(\frac{a^2}{2} + ya + za \right) dy dz = \int_0^c 2 \left[\frac{a^2}{2} y + \frac{ay^2}{2} + azy \right]_0^b dz$$

$$= 2 \int_0^c \left(\frac{a^2 b}{2} + \frac{ab^2}{2} + abz \right) dz = 2 \left[\frac{a^2 b}{2} z + \frac{ab^2}{2} z + ab \frac{z^2}{2} \right]_0^c$$

$$= a^2 bc + ab^2 c + abc^2 = abc(a + b + c) \quad \dots(1)$$



To evaluate the surface integral, divide the closed surface S of the rectangular parallelepiped into 6 parts.

S_1 : the face $OAC'B$, S_2 : the face $CB'PA'$, S_3 : the face $OBA'C$,

S_4 : the face $AC'PB'$, S_5 : the face $OCB'A$, S_6 : the face $BA'PC'$.

Also $\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_{S_1} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS + \iint_{S_2} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS + \iint_{S_3} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS$

$$+ \iint_{S_4} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS + \iint_{S_5} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS + \iint_{S_6} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$

On S_1 ($z = 0$), we have $\hat{n} = -\hat{k}$, $\vec{F} = x^2\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} - xy\hat{k}$

so that $\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (x^2\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} - xy\hat{k}) \cdot (-\hat{k}) = xy$

$\therefore \iint_{S_1} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^b \int_0^a xy dx dy = \int_0^b \left[y \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^a dy = \frac{a^2}{2} \int_0^b y dy = \frac{a^2 b^2}{4}$

On S_2 ($z = c$), we have $\hat{n} = \hat{k}$, $\vec{F} = (x^2 - cy)\hat{i} + (y^2 - cx)\hat{j} + (c^2 - xy)\hat{k}$

so that $\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = [(x^2 - cy)\hat{i} + (y^2 - cx)\hat{j} + (c^2 - xy)\hat{k}] \cdot \hat{k} = c^2 - xy$

$$\iint_{S_2} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^b \int_0^a (c^2 - xy) dx dy = \int_0^b \left(c^2 a - \frac{a^2}{2} y \right) dy = abc^2 - \frac{a^2 b^2}{4}$$

On S_3 ($x = 0$), we have $\hat{n} = -\hat{i}$, $\vec{F} = -yz\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$

so that $\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (-yz\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}) \cdot (-\hat{i}) = yz$

$$\therefore \iint_{S_3} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^c \int_0^b yz dy dz = \int_0^c \frac{b^2}{2} z dz = \frac{b^2 c^2}{4}$$

On S_4 ($x = a$), we have $\hat{n} = \hat{i}$, $\vec{F} = (a^2 - yz)\hat{i} + (y^2 - az)\hat{j} + (z^2 - ay)\hat{k}$

so that $\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = [(a^2 - yz)\hat{i} + (y^2 - az)\hat{j} + (z^2 - ay)\hat{k}] \cdot \hat{i} = a^2 - yz$

$$\therefore \iint_{S_4} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^c \int_0^b (a^2 - yz) dy dz = \int_0^c \left(a^2 b - \frac{b^2}{2} z \right) dz = a^2 bc - \frac{b^2 c^2}{4}$$

On S_5 ($y = 0$), we have $\hat{n} = -\hat{j}$, $\vec{F} = x^2\hat{i} - zx\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$

so that $\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (x^2\hat{i} - zx\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}) \cdot (-\hat{j}) = zx$

$$\therefore \iint_{S_5} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^a \int_0^c zx dz dx = \int_0^a \frac{c^2}{2} x dx = \frac{a^2 c^2}{4}$$

On S_6 ($y = b$), we have $\hat{n} = \hat{j}$, $\vec{F} = (x^2 - bz)\hat{i} + (b^2 - zx)\hat{j} + (z^2 - bx)\hat{k}$

so that $\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = [(x^2 - bz)\hat{i} + (b^2 - zx)\hat{j} + (z^2 - bx)\hat{k}] \cdot \hat{j} = b^2 - zx$

$$\therefore \iint_{S_6} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^a \int_0^c (b^2 - zx) dz dx = \int_0^a \left(b^2 c - \frac{c^2}{2} x \right) dx = ab^2 c - \frac{a^2 c^2}{4}$$

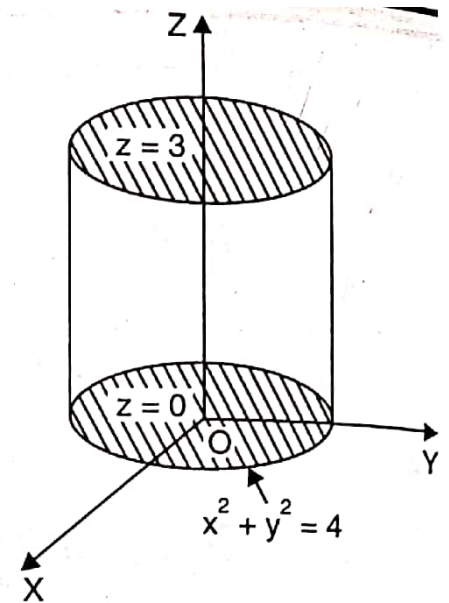
$$\therefore \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \frac{a^2 b^2}{4} + abc^2 - \frac{a^2 b^2}{4} + \frac{b^2 c^2}{4} + a^2 bc - \frac{b^2 c^2}{4} + \frac{a^2 c^2}{4} + ab^2 c - \frac{a^2 c^2}{4} \\ = abc(a + b + c) \quad \dots(2)$$

The equality of (1) and (2) verifies divergence theorem.

Example 5. Verify divergence theorem for $\vec{F} = 4x\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$ taken over the region bounded by the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 4$, $z = 0$, $z = 3$.

Sol. Since $\text{div } \vec{F} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(4x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-2y^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(z^2) = 4 - 4y + 2z$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \iiint_V \operatorname{div} \vec{F} dV &= \iiint_V (4 - 4y + 2z) dx dy dz \\
&= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{-\sqrt{4-x^2}}^{\sqrt{4-x^2}} \int_0^3 (4 - 4y + 2z) dz dy dx \\
&= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{-\sqrt{4-x^2}}^{\sqrt{4-x^2}} \left[4z - 4yz + z^2 \right]_0^3 dy dx \\
&= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{-\sqrt{4-x^2}}^{\sqrt{4-x^2}} (12 - 12y + 9) dy dx \\
&= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{-\sqrt{4-x^2}}^{\sqrt{4-x^2}} 21 dy dx,
\end{aligned}$$



(Since $12y$ is an odd function, $\int_{-a}^a 12y dy = 0$)

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_{-2}^2 42\sqrt{4-x^2} dx = 84 \int_0^2 \sqrt{4-x^2} dx = 84 \left[\frac{x\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2} + \frac{4}{2} \sin^{-1} \frac{x}{2} \right]_0^2 = 84[2 \sin^{-1} 1] \\
&= 84 \left[2 \times \frac{\pi}{2} \right] = 84\pi \quad \dots(1)
\end{aligned}$$

To evaluate the surface integral, divide the closed surface S of the cylinder into 3 parts.

S_1 : the circular base in the plane $z = 0$

S_2 : the circular top in the plane $z = 3$

S_3 : the curved surface of the cylinder, given by the equation $x^2 + y^2 = 4$.

Also
$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_{S_1} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS + \iint_{S_2} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS + \iint_{S_3} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$

On S_1 ($z = 0$), we have $\hat{n} = -\hat{k}$, $\vec{F} = 4x\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j}$

so that
$$\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (4x\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j}) \cdot (-\hat{k}) = 0$$

$$\therefore \iint_{S_1} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = 0$$

On S_2 ($z = 3$), we have $\hat{n} = \hat{k}$, $\vec{F} = 4x\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j} + 9\hat{k}$

so that
$$\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (4x\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j} + 9\hat{k}) \cdot \hat{k} = 9$$

$$\therefore \iint_{S_2} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_{S_2} 9 dx dy = 9 \iint_{S_2} dx dy$$

$$= 9 \times \text{area of surface } S_2 = 9 (\pi \cdot 2^2) = 36\pi$$

On S_3 , $x^2 + y^2 = 4$

A vector normal to the surface S_3 is given by $\nabla (x^2 + y^2) = 2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j}$

$\therefore \hat{n}$ = a unit vector normal to surface S_3

$$= \frac{2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j}}{\sqrt{4x^2 + 4y^2}} = \frac{2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j}}{\sqrt{4 \times 4}}, \text{ since } x^2 + y^2 = 4$$

$$= \frac{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}}{2}$$

$$\vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (4x\hat{i} - 2y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}) \cdot \left(\frac{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}}{2} \right) = 2x^2 - y^3$$

Also, on S_3 , i.e., $x^2 + y^2 = 4$, $x = 2 \cos \theta$, $y = 2 \sin \theta$ and $dS = 2d\theta dz$.

To cover the whole surface S_3 , z varies from 0 to 3 and θ varies from 0 to 2π .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \iint_{S_3} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^3 [2(2 \cos \theta)^2 - (2 \sin \theta)^3] 2dz d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} 16 (\cos^2 \theta - \sin^3 \theta) \times 3 d\theta = 48 \int_0^{2\pi} (\cos^2 \theta - \sin^3 \theta) d\theta = 48\pi \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(\text{since } \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \theta d\theta = 2 \int_0^{\pi} \cos^2 \theta d\theta = 4 \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^2 \theta d\theta = 4 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{\pi}{2} = \pi, \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^3 \theta d\theta = 0 \right)$$

$$\therefore \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS = 0 + 36\pi + 48\pi = 84\pi \quad \dots(2)$$

The equality of (1) and (2) verifies divergence theorem.

Example 6. Find $\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} dS$, where $\vec{F} = (2x + 3z)\hat{i} - (xz + y)\hat{j} + (y^2 + 2z)\hat{k}$ and S is the surface of the sphere having centre at $(3, -1, 2)$ and radius 3.

Sol. Let V be the volume enclosed by the surface S . Then by Gauss divergence theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{S} &= \iiint_V \text{div } \vec{F} dV \\ &= \iiint_V \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2x + 3z) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (-xz - y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (y^2 + 2z) \right] dV \\ &= \iiint_V (2 - 1 + 2) dV = 3 \iiint_V dV = 3V \end{aligned}$$

But V is the volume of a sphere of radius 3.

$$\therefore V = \frac{4}{3} \pi (3)^3 = 36\pi.$$

$$\text{Hence } \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{S} = 3 \times 36\pi = 108\pi.$$

Example 7. Evaluate $\iint_S (y^2 z^2 \hat{i} + z^2 x^2 \hat{j} + z^2 y^2 \hat{k}) \cdot \hat{n} dS$, where S is the part of the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ above the xy -plane and bounded by this plane.

Sol. Let V be the volume enclosed by the surface S . Then by divergence theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S (y^2 z^2 \hat{i} + z^2 x^2 \hat{j} + z^2 y^2 \hat{k}) \cdot \hat{n} dS &= \iiint_V \text{div} (y^2 z^2 \hat{i} + z^2 x^2 \hat{j} + z^2 y^2 \hat{k}) dV \\ &= \iiint_V \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (y^2 z^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (z^2 x^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (z^2 y^2) \right] dV \\ &= \iiint_V 2zy^2 dV = 2 \iiint_V zy^2 dV \end{aligned}$$

Changing to spherical polar coordinates by putting

$$x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi, y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi, z = r \cos \theta$$

$$dV = r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi$$

To cover V , the limits of r will be 0 to 1, those of θ will be 0 to $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and those of ϕ will be 0 to 2π .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore 2 \iiint_V zy^2 \, dV &= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^1 (r \cos \theta) (r^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi) r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^1 r^5 \sin^3 \theta \cos \theta \sin^2 \phi \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^3 \theta \cos \theta \sin^2 \phi \left[\frac{r^6}{6} \right]_0^1 d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{2}{6} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2 \phi \cdot \frac{2}{4.2} d\phi = \frac{1}{12} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2 \phi \, d\phi = \frac{\pi}{12} . \end{aligned}$$

2. Verify divergence theorem for $\vec{F} = x^2\hat{i} + z\hat{j} + yz\hat{k}$ taken over the cube bounded by $x = 0, x = 1; y = 0; y = 1; z = 0, z = 1$.
3. Verify divergence theorem for $\vec{F} = 4xz\hat{i} - y^2\hat{j} + yz\hat{k}$ taken over the cube bounded by $x = 0, x = 1; y = 0, y = 1; z = 0, z = 1$.
(Madras 2006; M.D.U. May 2005; U.P.T.U. 2009)
4. Verify divergence theorem for $\vec{F} = (x^3 - yz)\hat{i} - 2x^2y\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ taken over the cube bounded by the planes $x = 0, x = a; y = 0, y = a; z = 0, z = a$.
5. (a) Verify divergence theorem for $\vec{F} = y\hat{i} + x\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$ over the cylindrical region bounded by $x^2 + y^2 = a^2, z = 0$ and $z = h$.
(b) Verify Gauss divergence theorem for the function $\vec{F} = y\hat{i} + x\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$ over the cylindrical region bounded by $x^2 + y^2 = 9, z = 0$ and $z = 2$.
(M.D.U. Dec. 2005)