

# Vector Calculus

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September 13, 2023

- A vector is defined by:

- Transformation under rotation

$$\begin{pmatrix} A'_x \\ A'_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{R}_{xx} & \mathbb{R}_{yy} \\ \mathbb{R}_{yx} & \mathbb{R}_{yy} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbb{R} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\delta\phi) & -\sin(\delta\phi) \\ \sin(\delta\phi) & \cos(\delta\phi) \end{pmatrix}$$

- Examples include electric fields, magnetic fields, momentum, displacement, etc.

- Scalars

- Invariant under rotation

- Examples include charge, mass, electric potential, energy, etc.

- Tensors (rank 2)

- $\mathbb{R}$  above is an example

- Differential Operators

- Gradient  $\longrightarrow \vec{\nabla} = \hat{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ 
  - \* Must operate on something to be useful
  - \* Ex.  $\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V(x, y, z)$

- Maxwell's Equations in a Vacuum (in SI units)

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_o} \rho$$
$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$
$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_o \vec{J} + \mu_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

– SI units for E&M: Coulomb, Volt, Tesla, Ampere

- Force between two objects

– In SI:

$$\vec{F}_{12} = \frac{q_1 q_2 (\widehat{r_1 - r_2})}{4\pi\epsilon_o r_{12}^2}$$

– In CGS:

$$F = \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

- Cross Products

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix}$$

– Not cumulative:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$$

– Distributive:

$$\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \vec{C}$$

– Not associative:

$$(\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{C} \neq \vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C})$$

- Unit Vectors:

$$\hat{v} = \frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|}$$

- Gradient of a scalar field

– If  $T$  is a scalar field, then:

$$\vec{\nabla} T = \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \hat{z}$$

– Ex.  $T = y^2 z$

$$\vec{\nabla} T = 0\hat{x} + (2yz)\hat{y} + (y^2)\hat{z}$$

– Ex.  $T = r^3 = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla}T &= \left(\frac{3}{2}(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}(2x)\right)\hat{x} + \left(\frac{3}{2}(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}(2y)\right)\hat{y} \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{3}{2}(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}(2z)\right)\hat{z} \\ \vec{\nabla}T &= 3r(x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}) = 3r\vec{r} = 3r^2\hat{r} \\ \vec{\nabla}(r^3) &= 3r^2(\vec{\nabla}r)\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we see:

$$\vec{\nabla}r = \hat{r}$$

Think in terms of dimensionality.

- Product Rule

– In One Dimension:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(fg) = \frac{df}{dx}g + f\frac{dg}{dx}$$

– Three Dimensions:

$$\vec{\nabla}(fg) = (\vec{\nabla}f)g + f(\vec{\nabla}g) = g\vec{\nabla}f + f\vec{\nabla}g$$

where  $f, g$  are scalar functions of  $x, y, z$

– Where  $a$  is constant:

$$\vec{\nabla}(af) = a\vec{\nabla}(f)$$

- Chain Rule

– In One Dimension:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(g(x))) = f'(g(x))\frac{dg}{dx} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial g}\frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$$

– Three Dimensions:

$$\vec{\nabla}(f(g(x, y, z))) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial g}\vec{\nabla}g$$

– Example:

$$\begin{aligned}f(g) &= g^3, \quad g = r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial g}\vec{\nabla}g &= 3g^2\vec{\nabla}(r) = 3r^2\hat{r}\end{aligned}$$

- Divergence (where  $\vec{v}$  is a vector function)

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}$$

- Example of positive divergence (where  $\vec{v} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ ). Looking at the graph of the vector field and taking a sample volume, there is more going “out” than “in,” which indicates that the divergence is greater than 0

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = 1 + 0 + 0 = 1$$

- Zero divergence would mean the same quantity “out” as “in,” like when  $\vec{v}$  is a constant in any direction
- Negative divergence

$$\vec{v} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^3}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^3} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \frac{\vec{r}}{r^4} = (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{r}) \frac{1}{r^4} + \vec{r} \cdot \left( \vec{\nabla} \frac{1}{r^4} \right) = \frac{3}{r^4} + \vec{r} \cdot \left( -\frac{4\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^5} \right) = -\frac{1}{r^4}$$

- Curl

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = \text{curl}(\vec{v}) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \end{vmatrix}$$

- Product rule for curl:
  - \* Scalar times vector:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (f(x, y, z)\vec{A}(x, y, z)) = \vec{\nabla} f \times \vec{A} + f(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A})$$

- \* Vector times vector:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = (\vec{B} \cdot \vec{\nabla})\vec{A} - (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{\nabla})\vec{B} + \vec{A}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}) - \vec{B}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A})$$

- The Laplacian

$$-\nabla^2 T = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\nabla} T = \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2}$$

$$-\nabla^2 \vec{v} = \nabla^2 v_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \nabla^2 v_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \nabla^2 v_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

- The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

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<sup>1</sup>Keep in mind,  $r\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \vec{r}$ , and  $\vec{r} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$

- In one dimension

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = f(b) - f(a)$$

- In three dimensions:

$$\int_{\vec{a}}^{\vec{b}} \vec{\nabla} T \cdot d\vec{l} = T(\vec{b}) - T(\vec{a})$$

- Where  $d\vec{l} = dx\hat{\mathbf{x}} + dy\hat{\mathbf{y}} + dz\hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- This means that the above formula is independent of path; that is:

$$\oint \vec{\nabla} T \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{\vec{a}}^{\vec{b}} \vec{\nabla} T \cdot d\vec{l}$$

- Fundamental Theorem for Divergence

$$\underbrace{\int \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{N} d\tau}_{\text{volume}} = \underbrace{\oint \vec{v} \cdot d\vec{a}}_{\text{surface}}$$

- $d\tau$  refers to the differential volume element (that is,  $dx dy dz$ ,  $r^2 \sin(\theta) dr d\theta d\phi$ , etc.)

- Fundamental Theorem for Curl (Stoke's Theorem)

$$\underbrace{\oint \vec{v} \cdot d\vec{l}}_{\text{boundary}} = \underbrace{\int (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}) \cdot d\vec{a}}_{\text{surface}}$$

Object	Boundary
Line	End Points
Open Surface	Perimeter
Volume	Surface

- Spherical Coordinates

- In spherical coordinates, we obtain the following transformation:

$$\begin{cases} x = r \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi) \\ y = r \sin(\theta) \sin(\phi) \\ z = r \cos(\theta) \end{cases}$$

- Whereas  $d\vec{l} = dx\hat{\mathbf{x}} + dy\hat{\mathbf{y}} + dz\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  in rectangular, in spherical coordinates,  $d\vec{l} = dr\hat{\mathbf{r}} + r d\theta\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + r \sin(\theta) d\phi\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$
- This makes  $d\tau = r^2 \sin(\theta) dr d\theta d\phi$
- The gradient becomes:

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$

- The divergence becomes:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 v_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin(\theta) v_\theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

- The Laplacian becomes:

$$\nabla^2 T = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin(\theta) \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2(\theta)} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \phi^2}$$

- Delta Functions

- In one dimension:

$$\int_b^c \delta(x - a) = \begin{cases} 1, & b < a < c \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- In three dimensions:

$$\int_{\text{vol}} \delta^3(\vec{r} - \vec{a}) dx dy dz = \begin{cases} 1, & \vec{a} \text{ in volume} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Note:

$$\vec{\nabla} \left( \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2} \right) = 0, \text{ for } r \neq 0$$