

Vector Differentiation

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$$\phi(x, y, z) = x^2 y^2 z^2$$

$$\nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

GRADIENT:

$$\nabla \phi = i (2xy^2z^2) + j (2x^2yz^2) + k (2x^2y^2z)$$

If $\phi(x, y, z)$ is a scalar point function then the gradient of ϕ written as $\nabla \phi$ or $\text{grad } \phi$ is defined by

$$\text{grad } \phi = \nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

Remark: We also denote $\text{grad } \phi$ as, $\text{grad } \phi = \nabla \phi = \lambda i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$

Note: (1) $\text{grad } \phi$ is a vector point function

(2) If ϕ is a constant then $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0 \therefore \text{grad } \phi = 0$.

Results: (1) $\nabla(\phi \pm \psi) = \nabla \phi \pm \nabla \psi$

(2) $\nabla(\phi \psi) = \phi(\nabla \psi) + (\nabla \phi)\psi$

(3) $\nabla f(u) = i \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial z} = f'(u) \nabla u$

GEOMETRICAL MEANING OF $\text{grad } \phi$:

$\nabla \phi$ is a normal vector to the surface $\phi(x, y, z) = c$ in the outward direction.

$$\phi = xyz = 3$$

$\nabla \phi \rightarrow \text{normal to surface}$

ANGLE BETWEEN TWO SURFACES:

We know that $\nabla \phi$ is perpendicular to the tangent plane to the surface $\phi(x, y, z) = c$. Hence, if $\phi(x, y, z) = c_1$ and $\psi(x, y, z) = c_2$ are two surfaces the angle between the two surface is equal to the angle between the normal i.e. the angle between $\nabla \phi$ and $\nabla \psi$.

If θ is the angle between them then $\theta = \cos^{-1} \left| \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi}{|\nabla \phi| |\nabla \psi|} \right|$

If the surfaces are orthogonal then $\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi = 0$

$$\phi$$

$$\nabla \phi$$

$$\psi$$

$$\nabla \psi$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi}{|\nabla \phi| |\nabla \psi|}$$

DIRECTIONAL DERIVATIVE:

$\nabla \phi$ is a vector quantity its component (or resolved part) in the direction of a vector \underline{a} is $\frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \underline{a}}{|\underline{a}|}$

This component is called the directional derivative of ϕ in the direction of \underline{a} .

Thus, the directional derivative of ϕ in the direction of $\underline{a} = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \underline{a}}{|\underline{a}|}$

Physically the directional derivative is the rate of change of ϕ at (x, y, z) in the given direction.

$$\frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \underline{a}}{|\underline{a}|}$$

MAXIMUM DIRECTIONAL DERIVATIVE:

Since the resolved part of a vector is maximum in its own direction, the directional derivative is maximum

in the direction $\nabla \phi$. Since $\nabla \phi$ is normal to the surface, we can also say that $\nabla \phi$ is maximum in the direction of the normal to the surface and the maximum directional derivative is $|\nabla \phi|$.

$$\text{when } \underline{a} = \nabla \phi$$

$$\max d.d = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|} = |\nabla \phi|$$

Examples:

Q.1 Find the angle between the normals to the surface $xy = z^2$ at the points $(1, 4, 2)$ and $(-3, -3, 3)$

$$\text{let } \phi = xy - z^2$$

$$\nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \phi = i(y) + j(x) + k(-2z)$$

$$\text{let } \underline{a} = \nabla \phi \Big|_{(1, 4, 2)} = 4i + j - 4k$$

$$\text{let } \vec{a} = \nabla \phi|_{(1,4,2)}$$

$$\vec{b} = \nabla \phi|_{(-3,-3,3)} = -3\vec{i} - 3\vec{j} - 6\vec{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{angle bet}^h \text{ normals} &= \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}| |\vec{b}|} = \frac{4(-3) + (1)(-3) + (-4)(-6)}{\sqrt{4^2 + 1^2 + (-4)^2} \sqrt{(-3)^2 + (-3)^2 + (-6)^2}} \\ &= \frac{-12 - 3 + 24}{\sqrt{33} \sqrt{54}} = \frac{9}{3\sqrt{198}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{198}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{198}}\right)$$

Q.2 Find the constants a and b so that the surface $ax^2 - byz = (a+2)x$ will be orthogonal to the surface $4x^2y + z^3 = 4$ at $(1, -1, 2)$.

Solⁿ \therefore let $\phi = ax^2 - byz - (a+2)x$
 $\psi = 4x^2y + z^3 - 4$

$$\nabla \phi = \vec{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$= \vec{i} (2ax - (a+2)) + \vec{j} (-bz) + \vec{k} (-by)$$

$$\text{let } \vec{p} = \nabla \phi|_{(1,-1,2)} = (a-2)\vec{i} - 2b\vec{j} + b\vec{k}$$

$$\text{Now } \nabla \psi = \vec{i} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}$$

$$= \vec{i} (8xy) + \vec{j} (4x^2) + \vec{k} (3z^2)$$

$$\text{let } \vec{q} = \nabla \psi|_{(1,-1,2)} = -8\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} + 12\vec{k}$$

The surfaces are orthogonal

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{p} \cdot \vec{q} &= 0 \Rightarrow -8(a-2) + 4(-2b) + 12(b) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow -8a + 16 - 8b + 12b = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow -8a + 4b + 16 = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)} \end{aligned}$$

Now the point $(1, -1, 2)$ lies on the surface
 $ax^2 - byz = (a+2)x$

$$\therefore a + 2b = (a+2) \quad \text{---}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2b = 2 \Rightarrow \boxed{b=1}$$

Sub this in (1) $\rightarrow -8a + 4b + 16 = 0$
 $-8a + 4 + 16 = 0 \Rightarrow a = \frac{20}{8} = \frac{5}{2}$

Q.3 Find the directional derivative of $\phi(x, y, z) = xy^2 + yz^3$ at the point $(2, -1, 1)$ in the direction of the vector $i + 2j + 2k$.

Soln: $\phi = xy^2 + yz^3$ $\bar{a} = i + 2j + 2k$

$$d \cdot d = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \bar{a}}{|\bar{a}|}$$

$$\nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$= i(y^2) + j(2xy + z^3) + k(3yz^2)$$

$$\nabla \phi|_{(2, -1, 1)} = i - 3j - 3k \quad (\bar{a} = i + 2j + 2k)$$

$$d \cdot d = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \bar{a}}{|\bar{a}|} = \frac{(1)(1) + (-3)(2) + (-3)(2)}{\sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{-11}{3}$$

Q.4 Find the directional derivative of $\phi = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ in the direction of the line $\frac{x}{3} = \frac{y}{4} = \frac{z}{5}$ at $(1, 2, 3)$

Soln: $\phi = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$

$$\nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \phi = i(2x) + j(2y) + k(2z)$$

$$\nabla \phi|_{(1, 2, 3)} = 2i + 4j + 6k$$

Now the direction of given line $\bar{a} = 3i + 4j + 5k$

$$d \cdot d = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \bar{a}}{|\bar{a}|} = \frac{(2)(3) + (4)(4) + 6(5)}{\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2}} = \frac{6 + 16 + 30}{\sqrt{50}} = \frac{52}{\sqrt{50}}$$

Q.5 Find the directional derivative of $\phi = \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}$ at $(0, 1)$ in the direction making an angle of 30° with the positive x-axis.

Soln:- $\phi = \frac{y}{x^2+y^2}$

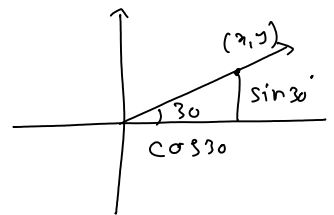
$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = y \left[\frac{-1}{(x^2+y^2)^2} \cdot 2x \right] = \frac{-2xy}{x^2+y^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = \frac{(x^2+y^2) \cdot (1) - y(2y)}{(x^2+y^2)^2} = \frac{x^2+y^2-2y^2}{(x^2+y^2)^2} = \frac{x^2-y^2}{(x^2+y^2)^2}$$

$$\nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{-2xy}{(x^2+y^2)^2} i + \frac{(x^2-y^2)}{(x^2+y^2)^2} j$$

$$\nabla \phi \Big|_{(0,1)} = 0i - j$$

Given direction \rightarrow angle of 30° with positive x axis



Unit Vector along given direction $\cdot \cos 30^\circ i + \sin 30^\circ j$
 $\vec{a} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} i + \frac{1}{2} j \rightarrow |\vec{a}| = 1$

$$d \cdot d = \frac{\nabla \phi \cdot \vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} = (0i - j) \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} i + \frac{1}{2} j \right) = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Q.6 In what direction from the point $(2, 1, -1)$ is the directional derivative of $\phi = x^2 y z^3$ maximum? what is its magnitude?

Soln:- $\phi = x^2 y z^3$

$$\nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \phi = i(2xyz^3) + j(x^2 z^3) + k(3x^2 y z^2)$$

$$\nabla \phi \Big|_{(2,1,-1)} = -4i - 4j + 12k$$

Directional derivative is maximum in the direction of $\nabla \phi$

Hence d.d. is maximum in the direction of $-4i - 4j + 12k$

$$\text{It's magnitude} = |\nabla \phi|$$

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$$= \sqrt{4^2 + 4^2 + 12^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{16 + 16 + 144} = \sqrt{176} = 4\sqrt{11}$$

Q.7 Find the values of a, b, c if the directional derivative of $\phi = ax^2y + byz + cz^2x^3$ at $(1, 2, -1)$ has maximum magnitude 64 in the direction parallel to the z -axis.

Solⁿ:- we have $\phi = ax^2y + byz + cz^2x^3$

$$\nabla\phi = i \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla\phi = i(ay^2 + 3cz^2x^2) + j(2axy + bz) + k(by + 2czx^3)$$

$$\nabla\phi|_{(1,2,-1)} = i(4a+3c) + j(4a-b) + k(2b-2c)$$

The max d.d. is in the direction of $\nabla\phi$

ie in the direction of $(4a+3c)i + (4a-b)j + (2b-2c)k$

But by given data, the d.d. is max in the direction of z -axis ie $0i + 0j + k$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{4a+3c=0}, \underline{4a-b=0}$$

$$\therefore \nabla\phi = 2b-2c \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\text{max mag} = |\nabla\phi| = 64$$

$$\Rightarrow |2b-2c| = 64 \Rightarrow \underline{2b-2c=64} \Rightarrow b-c=32$$

$$\therefore a=6, b=24, c=$$

DIVERGENCE:

Let $F(x, y, z) = f_1i + f_2j + f_3k$ be a vector point function defined in a certain region of space, where the components f_1, f_2, f_3 are functions of x, y, z then the divergence of F written as $\nabla \cdot F$ or $\text{div}F$ is defined by

$$\text{div}F = \nabla \cdot F = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}i + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}j + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}k \right) \cdot (f_1i + f_2j + f_3k) = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z}$$

Note: $\nabla \cdot F$ is a scalar point function

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = 2x + xz + 3x^3z^2$$

CURL :

Let $F(x, y, z) = f_1i + f_2j + f_3k$ be a vector point function defined in a certain region of space then the curl of F , written as $\nabla \times F$ or $\text{curl} F$ is defined by

$$\text{Curl } F = \nabla \times F = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ f_1 & f_2 & f_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

Note: $\nabla \times F$ is a vector point function

$$\text{Curl } \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x^2 & y^2 & z^2 \end{vmatrix} = i \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (yz^2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (xy^2) \right) - j \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (yz^2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (x^2) \right) + k \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (xy^2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2) \right)$$

$$\text{Curl } \vec{F} = i(-xy) - j(3xz^2) + k(yz)$$

1.	Gradient of Scalar Point Function is Vector Point Function
2.	Divergence of Vector Point Function is Scalar Point
3.	Curl of Vector Point Function is Vector Point Function

Examples:

Soln:- Q.1 If $\phi = x^3 + y^3 + z^3 - 3xyz$, find (a) $\vec{r} \cdot \nabla \phi$ (b) $\text{div } \vec{F}$ (c) $\text{curl } \vec{F}$ where $\vec{F} = \nabla \phi$.

$$\vec{F} = \nabla \phi = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad \vec{r} \cdot \nabla \phi &= (xi + yj + zk) \cdot ((3x^2 - 3yz)i + (3y^2 - 3xz)j + (3z^2 - 3xy)k) \\ &= x(3x^2 - 3yz) + y(3y^2 - 3xz) + z(3z^2 - 3xy) \\ &= 3x^3 - 3xyz + 3y^2 - 3xyz + 3z^2 - 3xyz \\ &= 3(x^3 + y^3 + z^3 - 3xyz) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b)} \quad \text{div } \vec{F} &= \nabla \cdot \vec{F} \\ &= \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot ((3x^2 - 3yz)i + (3y^2 - 3xz)j + (3z^2 - 3xy)k) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3x^2 - 3yz) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (3y^2 - 3xz) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (3z^2 - 3xy) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Div } \vec{F} = 6x + 6y + 6z = 6(x + y + z)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(c)} \quad \text{Curl } \vec{F} &= \nabla \times \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ 3x^2 - 3yz & 3y^2 - 3xz & 3z^2 - 3xy \end{vmatrix} \\ &= i \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (3z^2 - 3xy) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (3y^2 - 3xz) \right) - j \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3z^2 - 3xy) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (3x^2 - 3yz) \right) + k \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3y^2 - 3xz) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (3x^2 - 3yz) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= i \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (3z^2 - 3xy) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (3y^2 - 3xz) \right] - j \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3z^2 - 3xy) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (3x^2 - 3yz) \right] \\
 &\quad + k \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3y^2 - 3xz) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (3x^2 - 3yz) \right] \\
 &= i [-3x + 3x] - j [-3y + 3y] + k [-3z + 3z] = \vec{0}
 \end{aligned}$$

Soln: $\vec{f} = (x+y+1)i + j - (x+y)k$

Q.2 If $\vec{f} = (x+y+1)i + j - (x+y)k$, prove that $\vec{f} \cdot \text{curl } \vec{f} = 0$

$$\text{curl } \vec{f} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x+y+1 & 1 & -(x+y) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= i [-1 - 0] - j [-1 - 0] + k [0 - 1]$$

$$\text{curl } \vec{f} = -i + j - k$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{f} \cdot \text{curl } \vec{f} &= [(x+y+1)i + j - (x+y)k] \cdot (-i + j - k) \\
 &= -(x+y+1) + (x+y)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{f} \cdot \text{curl } \vec{f} = 0$$

Q.3 If \vec{a} is a constant vector and $\vec{r} = xi + yj + zk$, prove that,

(i) $\text{div } \vec{a} = 0$ (ii) $\text{curl } \vec{a} = \vec{0}$ (iii) $\text{grad } r = \frac{1}{r} \vec{r}$ (iv) $\text{div } \vec{r} = 3$ (v) $\text{curl } \vec{r} = \vec{0}$

Soln: $\vec{a} = a_1i + a_2j + a_3k$

$$\vec{r} = xi + yj + zk$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{div } \vec{a} &= \nabla \cdot \vec{a} = \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (a_1i + a_2j + a_3k) \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (a_1) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (a_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (a_3)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(a_1) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(a_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(a_3)$$

$$= 0 + 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$(b) \text{ curl } \vec{a} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \hat{i} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(a_3) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(a_2) \right] - \hat{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(a_3) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(a_1) \right]$$

$$+ \hat{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(a_2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(a_1) \right]$$

$$= 0\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 0\hat{k} = \vec{0}$$

$$(c) \text{ grad } \gamma = \nabla \gamma$$

$$= \hat{i} \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial z}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k} \\ \gamma = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial x} \nabla f(\gamma) = \frac{f'(\gamma) \vec{r}}{\gamma} \Rightarrow \nabla \gamma = \frac{(1) \vec{r}}{\gamma} = \frac{\vec{r}}{\gamma}$$

$$f(\gamma) = \gamma \Rightarrow f'(\gamma) = 1$$

$$(d) \text{ div } \vec{r} = \nabla \cdot \vec{r} = \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k})$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(z) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$$

$$(e) \text{ curl } \vec{r} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \hat{i} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(y) \right] - \hat{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(x) \right] + \hat{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x) \right]$$

$$= 0\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 0\hat{k} = \vec{0}$$

Q.4 If \vec{a} is constant vector and $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$, prove that, $\text{div}(\vec{a} \times \vec{r}) = 0$.

$$\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{r} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$r = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$$

$$\text{div}(\bar{a} \times \bar{r}) = \nabla \cdot (\bar{a} \times \bar{r}) = \begin{vmatrix} \nabla & \bar{a} & \bar{r} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [a_2 z - a_3 y] - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [a_1 z - a_3 x] + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} [a_1 y - a_2 x]$$

$$= 0 + 0 + 0 = 0$$

Solenoidal Vector field

A vector F whose $\text{div} F = 0$ is called **solenoid**

Irrotational Vector Field

A vector F whose $\text{curl} F = 0$ is called **Irrotational**.

In general, if $\nabla \times F = 0$ i.e. $\text{curl} F = 0$ then we can find scalar field Φ so that $F = \nabla \Phi$

A ~~vector field~~ F which can be derived from a scalar field Φ so that $F = \nabla \Phi$ is called a **conservation vector field** and Φ is called the **scalar potential**

conversely also, if $F = \nabla \Phi$ then $\nabla \times F = 0$ i.e. $\text{curl} F = 0$

SOME EXAMPLES:

1. If $\bar{F} = (x + 3y)\mathbf{i} + (y - 2z)\mathbf{j} + (az + x)\mathbf{k}$ is solenoidal, find the value of a .

Since \bar{F} is solenoidal $\Rightarrow \text{div} \bar{F} = 0$

$$\therefore \nabla \cdot \bar{F} = 0 \Rightarrow \left(\mathbf{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \mathbf{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \mathbf{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot \left((x+3y)\mathbf{i} + (y-2z)\mathbf{j} + (az+x)\mathbf{k} \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x+3y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y-2z) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(az+x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 + 1 + a = 0 \Rightarrow a = -2$$

2. Find a, b, c if $\vec{F} = (axy + bz^3)i + (3x^2 - cz)j + (3xz^2 - y)k$ is irrotational.

Since \vec{F} is irrotational $\Rightarrow \text{curl } \vec{F} = \vec{0}$

$$\text{curl } \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ axy+bz^3 & 3x^2-cz & 3xz^2-y \end{vmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{i}[-1+c] - \hat{j}[3z^2-3bz^2] + \hat{k}(6x-ax) = \vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow -1+c=0, \quad 3z^2-3bz^2=0, \quad 6x-ax=0$$

$$\Rightarrow c=1, \quad b=1, \quad a=6$$

3. A vector field is given by $\vec{F} = (x^2 + xy^2)i + (y^2 + x^2y)j$. Show that \vec{F} is irrotational and find its scalar potential.

Solⁿ $\therefore \text{curl } \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x^2+xy^2 & y^2+x^2y & 0 \end{vmatrix}$

$$= \hat{i} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(0) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(y^2+x^2y) \right] - \hat{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(0) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(x^2+xy^2) \right] + \hat{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(y^2+x^2y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x^2+xy^2) \right]$$

$$= \hat{i}(0) + \hat{j}(0) + \hat{k}(0) = \vec{0}$$

$\therefore \text{curl } \vec{F} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{F}$ is irrotational

To find scalar potential

$$\vec{F} = \nabla \phi$$

$$(x^2 + xy^2)i + (y^2 + x^2y)j = i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = x^2 + xy^2 \Rightarrow \phi = \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^2 y^2}{2} + f(y)$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = y^2 + x^2 y \Rightarrow \phi = \frac{y^3}{3} + \frac{x^2 y^2}{2} + g(x)$$

$$\therefore \phi = \frac{x^2 y^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{y^3}{3} + C$$

IDENTITIES INVOLVING GRAD, DIV, CURL:

1. $\text{grad}(\Phi \pm \Psi) = \text{grad } \Phi \pm \text{grad } \Psi$
 $\nabla(\Phi \pm \Psi) = \nabla \Phi \pm \nabla \Psi$
2. $\text{div}(f \pm g) = \text{div } f \pm \text{div } g$
 $\nabla \cdot (f \pm g) = \nabla \cdot f \pm \nabla \cdot g$
3. $\text{Curl}(f \pm g) = \text{Curl } f \pm \text{Curl } g$
 $\nabla \times (f \pm g) = \nabla \times f \pm \nabla \times g$
4. $\text{grad}(\Phi \Psi) = \Phi \text{grad } \Psi + \Psi \text{grad } \Phi$
 $\nabla(\Phi \Psi) = \Phi \nabla \Psi + \Psi \nabla \Phi$ where Φ and Ψ are scalar functions
5. $\text{grad}(f \cdot g) = f \times (\text{curl } g) + g \times (\text{curl } f) + (f \cdot \nabla)g + (g \cdot \nabla)f$
 $\nabla(f \cdot g) = f \times (\nabla \times g) + g \times (\nabla \times f) + (f \cdot \nabla)g + (g \cdot \nabla)f$
6. $\text{div}(\Phi f) = \Phi \text{div } f + f \cdot \text{grad } \Phi$
 $\nabla \cdot (\Phi f) = \Phi (\nabla \cdot f) + f \cdot (\nabla \Phi)$
7. $\text{div}(f \times g) = g \cdot \text{curl } f - f \cdot \text{curl } g$
 $\nabla \cdot (f \times g) = g \cdot (\nabla \times f) - f \cdot (\nabla \times g)$
8. $\text{curl}(f \times g) = f \text{div } g - g \text{div } f + (g \cdot \nabla)f - (f \cdot \nabla)g$
 $\nabla \times (f \times g) = f(\nabla \cdot g) - g(\nabla \cdot f) + (g \cdot \nabla)f - (f \cdot \nabla)g$
9. $\text{curl}(\Phi f) = \Phi (\text{curl } f) + (\text{grad } \Phi) \times f$
 $\nabla \times (\Phi f) = \Phi (\nabla \times f) + (\nabla \Phi) \times f$