

Coordinate system, Scalar versus Vector fields Operators

- Position of the problem: Coordinate system
- Vector calculus: Basics
- Application to the scalar and vector **fields**

The ultimate goal of manipulating scalar and vector fields is to give a **mathematical view** of electricity and magnetism



Explain Coulomb – Poisson – Biot&Savart – Ampere – Gauss and Maxwell's laws

Position of the problem: Coordinate system

What do we need to evaluate scalar and vector fields at some point in space?

- Localize the source (charge or current distribution) in space
- Define a reference frame
- Localize the point where the effect of the source is to be evaluated
- Make use of **symmetry** if necessary to simplify the problem



Make a choice between

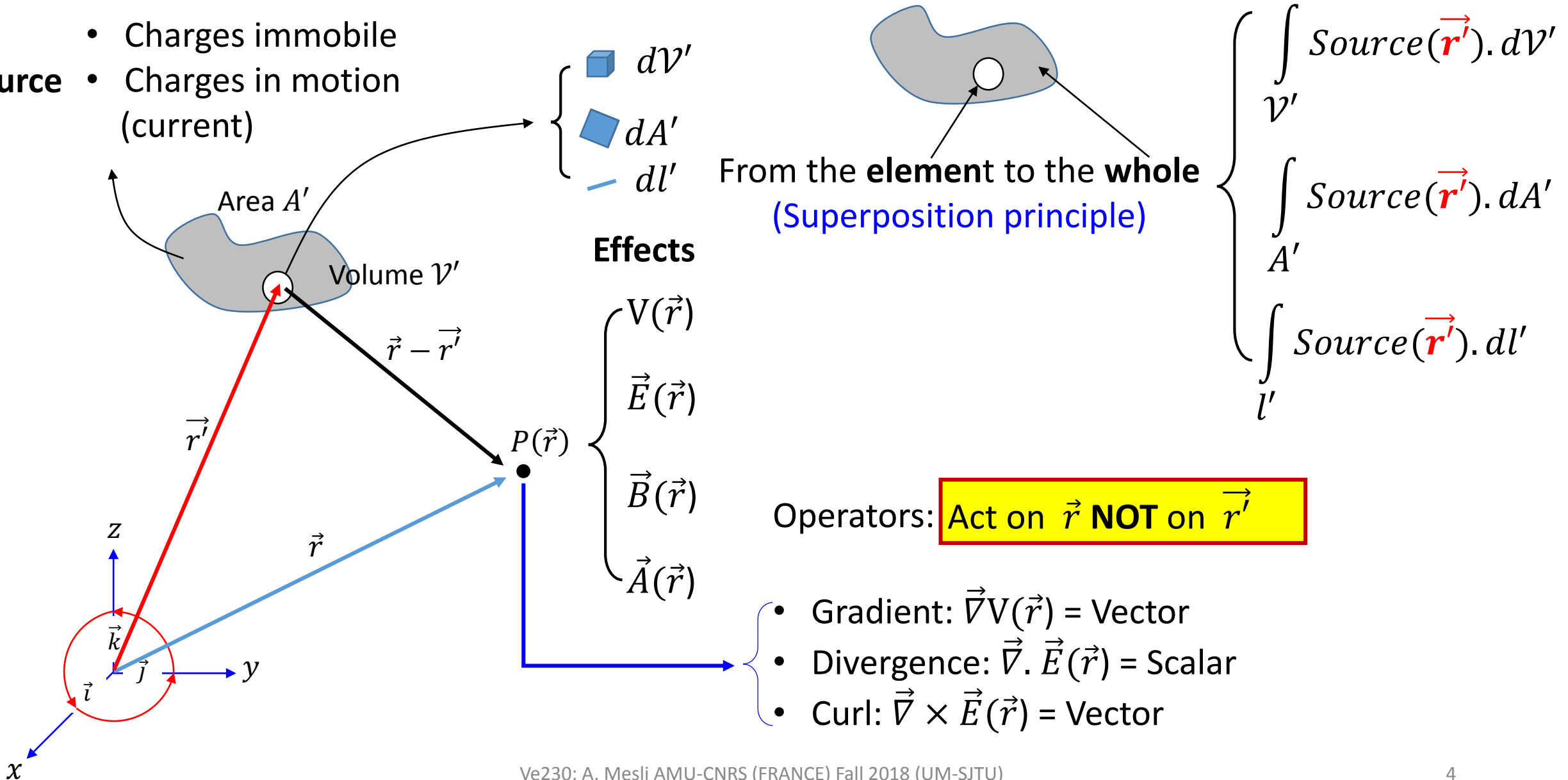


Cartesian cylindrical spherical representation

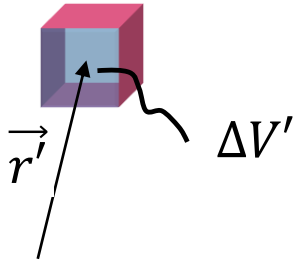
Caution: \mathcal{V}' is a volume, V is a potential

Reference frame: localization in space

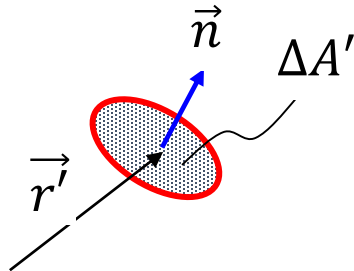
- Source**
- Charges immobile
 - Charges in motion (current)



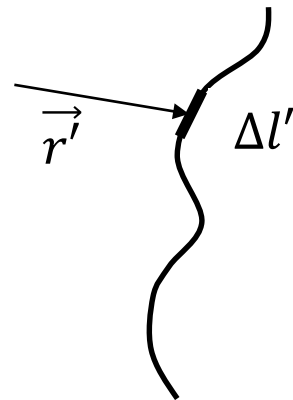
Charge and current distribution



$$\rho(\vec{r}') = \lim_{\Delta V' \rightarrow 0} \frac{Q_{\Delta V'}}{\Delta V'} \quad \begin{array}{l} \Delta V' = \text{volume element around } \vec{r}' \\ Q_{\Delta V'} = \text{total charge enclosed in } \Delta V' \end{array}$$

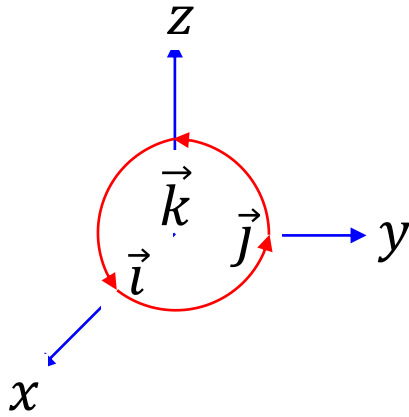


$$\sigma(\vec{r}') = \lim_{\Delta A' \rightarrow 0} \frac{Q_{\Delta A'}}{\Delta A'} \quad \begin{array}{l} \Delta A' = \text{surface element around } \vec{r}' \\ Q_{\Delta A'} = \text{total charge distributed on } \Delta A' \end{array}$$



$$\lambda(\vec{r}') = \lim_{\Delta l' \rightarrow 0} \frac{Q_{\Delta l'}}{\Delta l'} \quad \begin{array}{l} \Delta l' = \text{line element around } \vec{r}' \\ Q_{\Delta l'} = \text{total charge distributed along } \Delta l' \end{array}$$

Rule

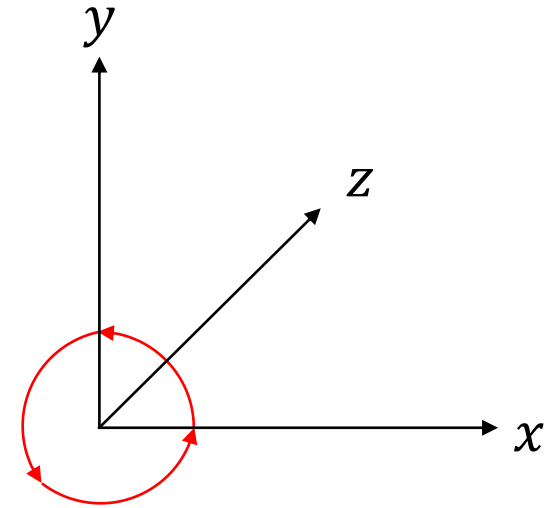


$$\vec{i} \times \vec{j} = \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{j} \times \vec{k} = \vec{i}$$

$$\vec{k} \times \vec{i} = \vec{j}$$

Reference frame



Forbidden

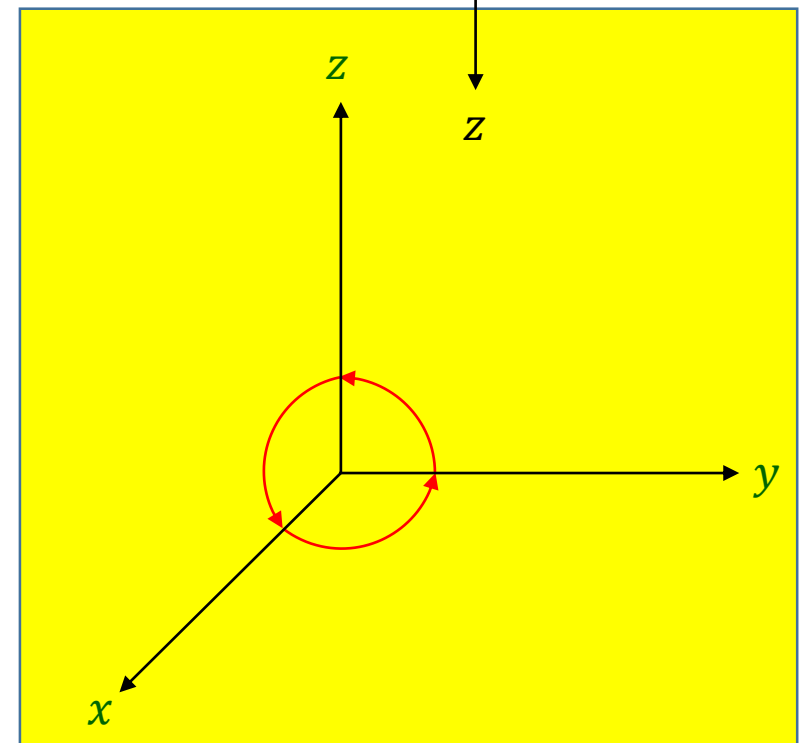
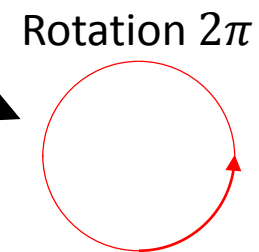
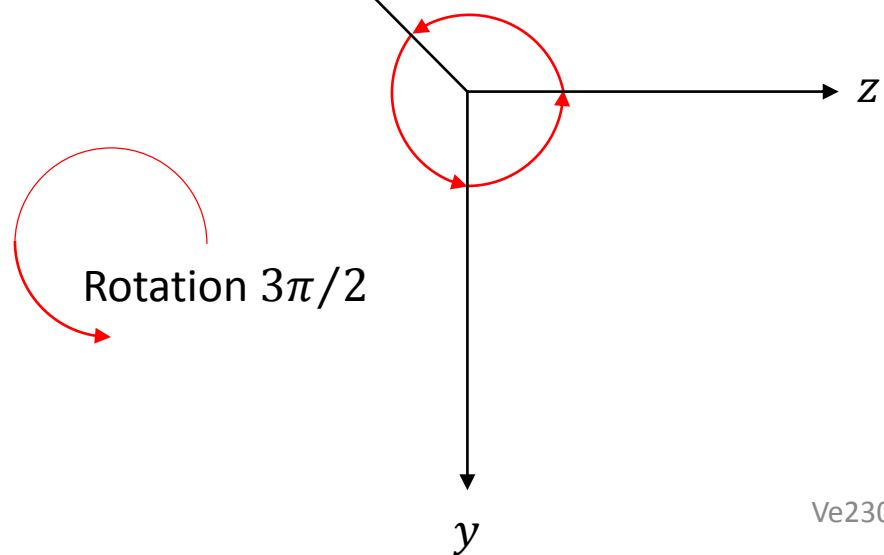
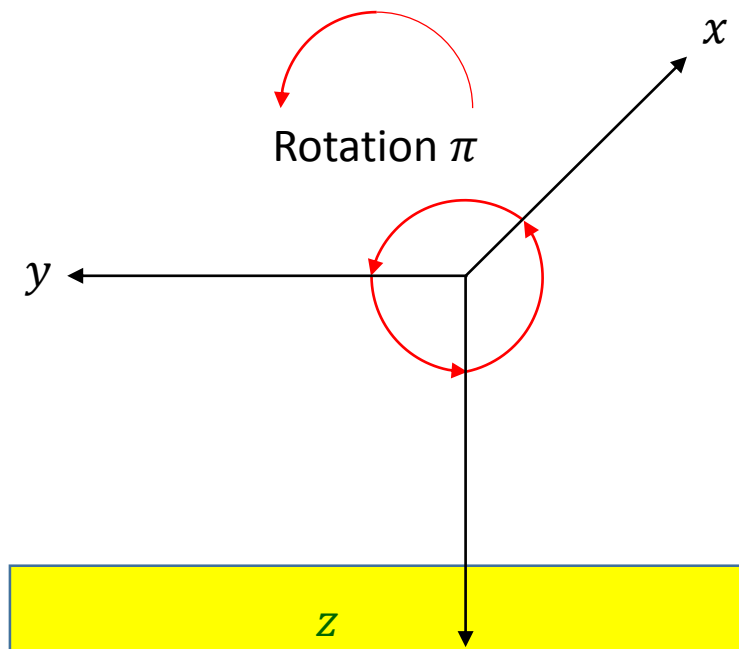
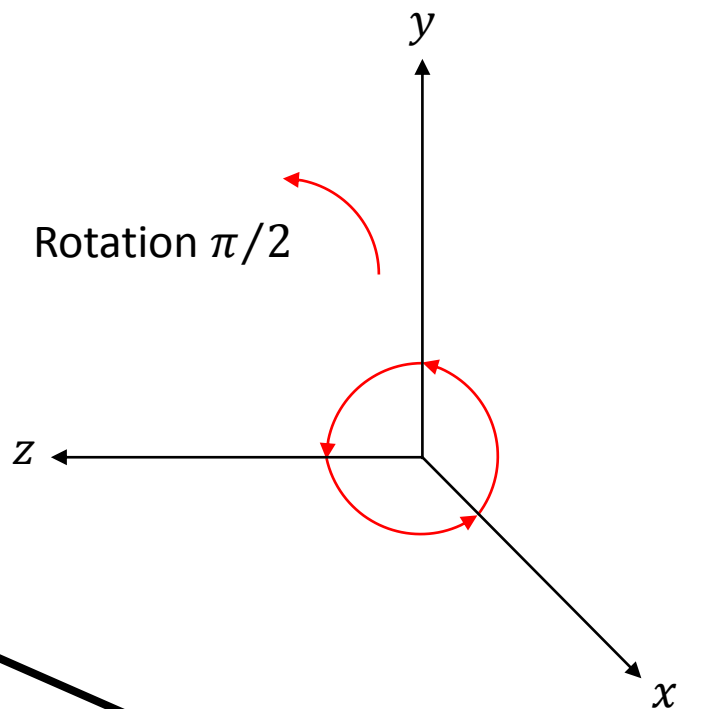
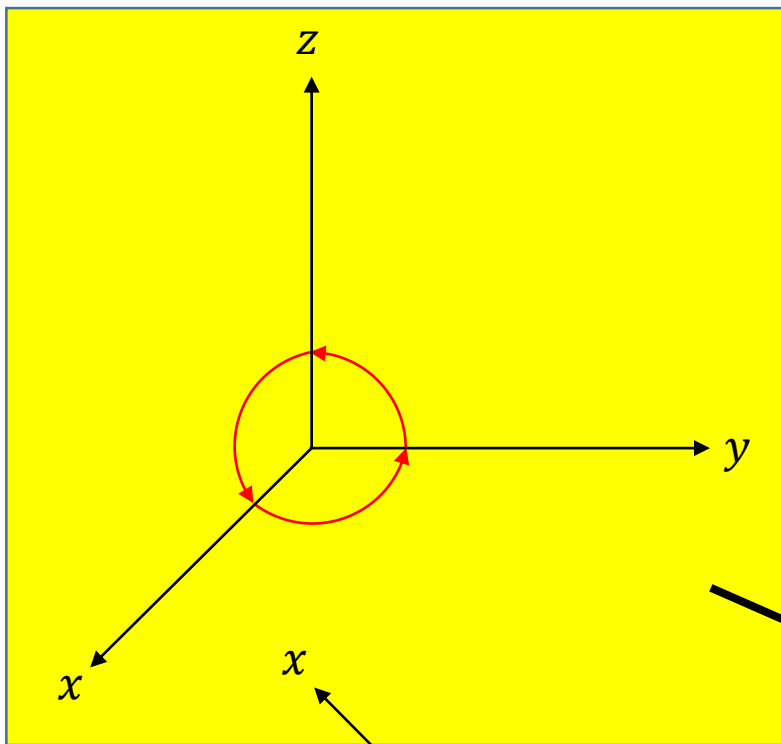
* Question #1:

Why is this frame forbidden?

Answer to *Question 1

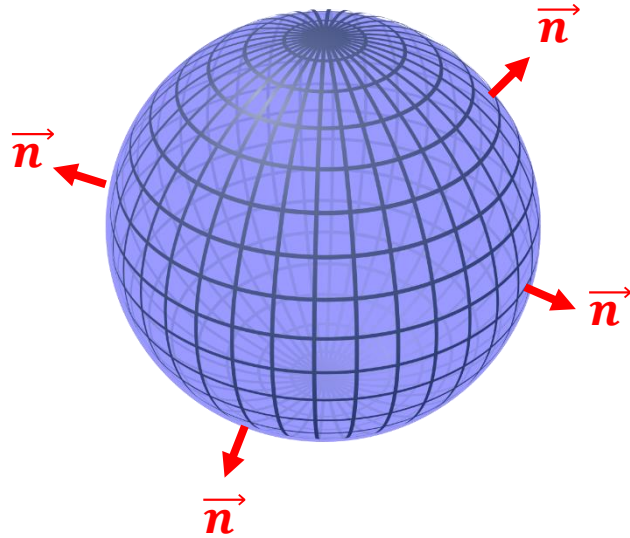
According to frame $\vec{i} \times \vec{k} = \vec{j}$

According to the rule $\vec{k} \times \vec{i} = \vec{j}$ \Rightarrow $\vec{i} \times \vec{k} = -\vec{j}$



Closed versus open surface

Closed surface

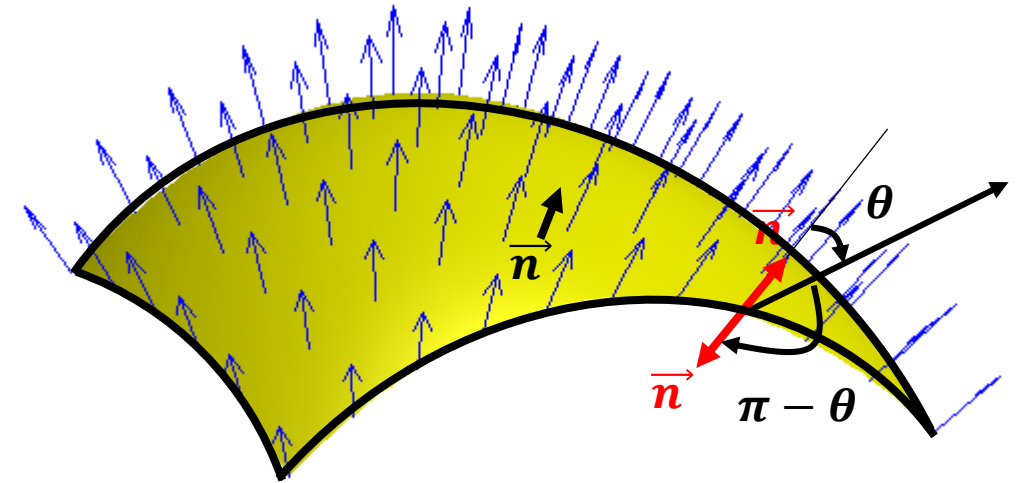


Unit vector is always directed outwards

Closed surface defines a volume

Divergence and Gauss theorem

Open surface



$$\cos\theta = -\cos(\pi - \theta)$$

Both orientations of the unit vector are valid

Open surface defines a closed path

Curl and Stokes theorem

BUT

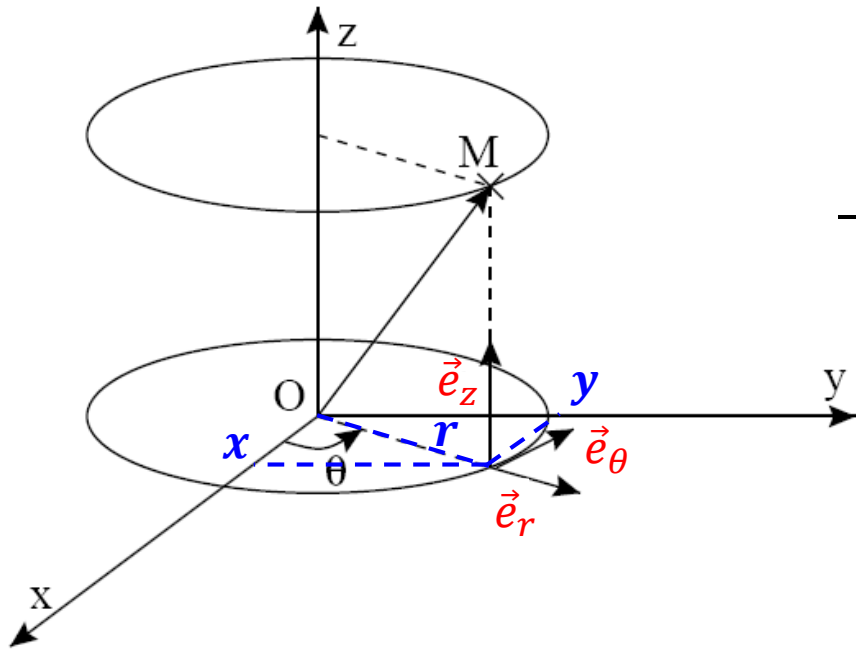
When the open surface closes

Divergence
Gauss theorem



Curl
Stokes theorem

Surface and volume element in cylindrical coordinates



$$0 < r < \infty$$

$$0 < \theta < 2\pi$$

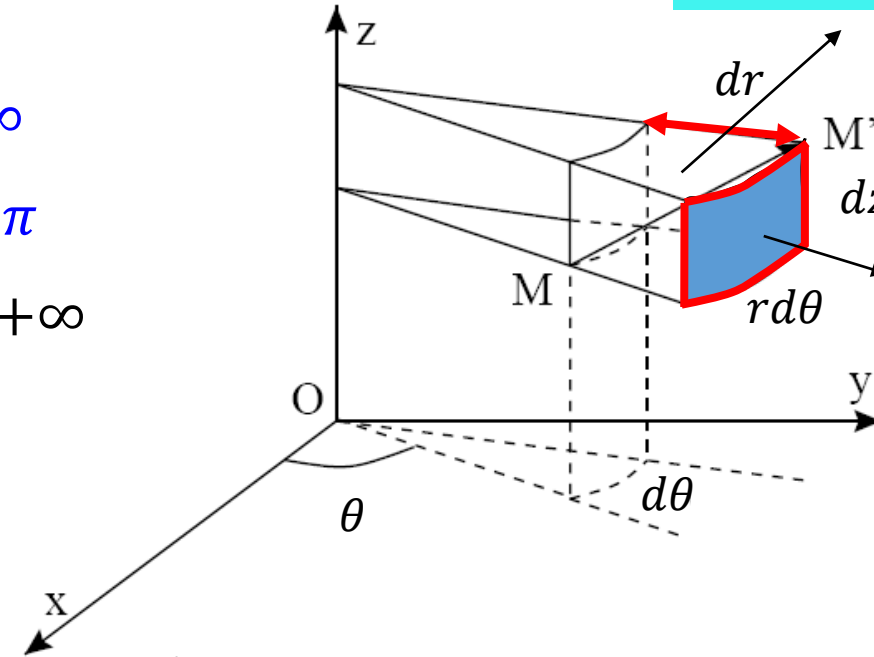
$$-\infty < z < +\infty$$

$$x = r \cos \theta$$

$$y = r \sin \theta$$

Polar coordinates

$$z = z$$



$$dV = dr(r d\theta) dz$$

$$dA = (r d\theta) dz$$

Area of a cylinder of radius R and height H

$$dA = (R d\theta) dz$$



$$A = \int_0^{2\pi} R d\theta \int_0^H dz = 2\pi R H$$

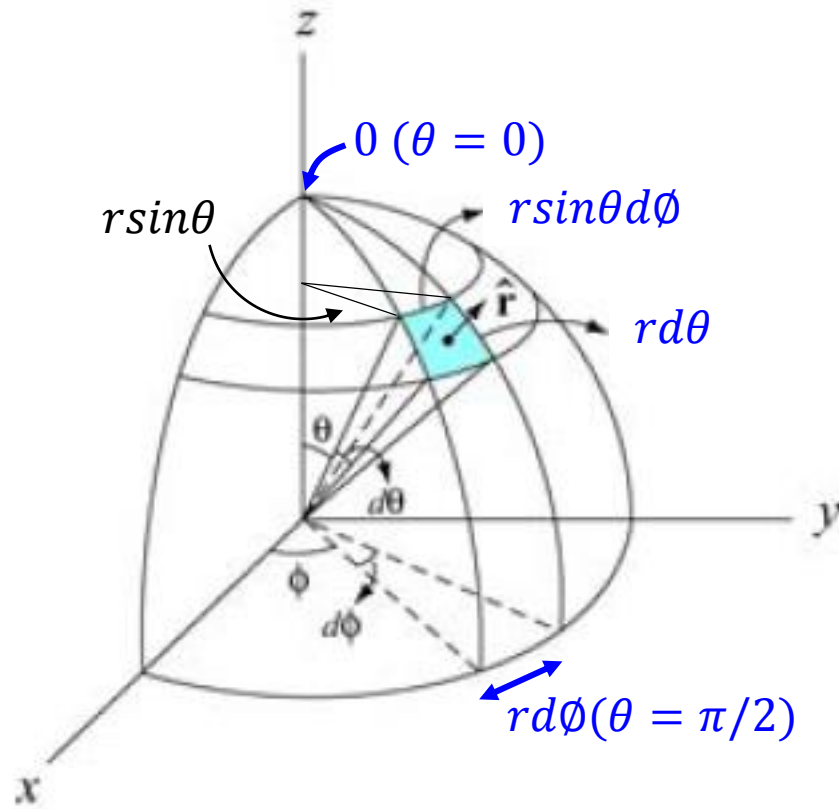
Volume of a cylinder of radius R and height H

$$dV = dr(r d\theta) dz$$



$$V = \int_0^R r dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \int_0^H dz = \pi R^2 H$$

Surface and volume element in spherical coordinates



$$0 < \theta < \pi$$
$$0 < \phi < 2\pi$$

$$dA = (r \sin \theta d\phi)(r d\theta)$$



$$dA = r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi$$



$$dV = (dA)dr$$

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

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

Area of a sphere of radius R

$$A = R^2 \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi = 4\pi R^2$$

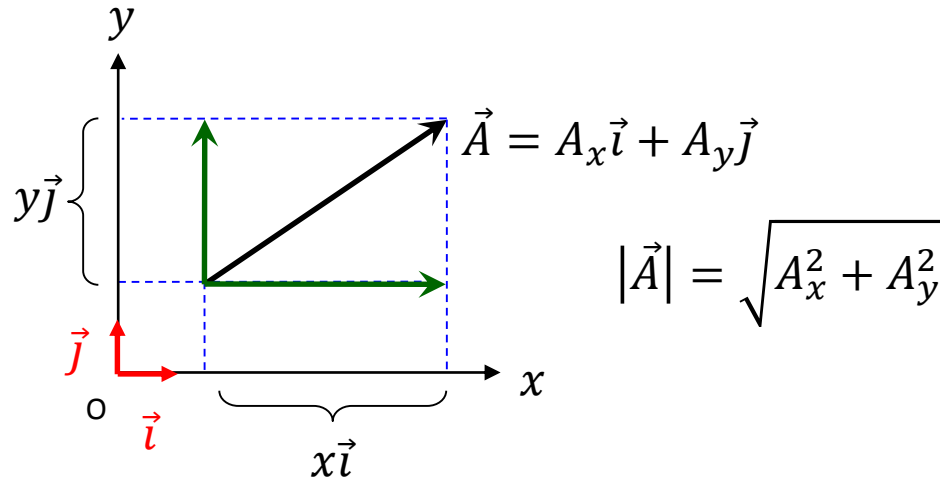
Volume of a sphere of radius R

$$V = \int_0^R r^2 dr \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$$
$$= \frac{4}{3} \pi R^3$$

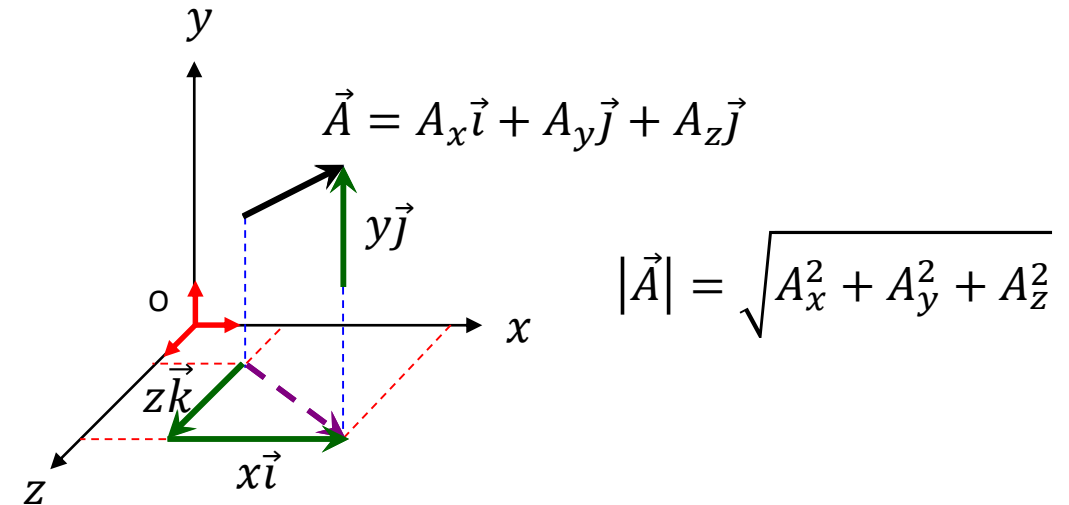
Vector calculus: Basics

Vector and representation

Representation in 2D **2 components**



Representation in 3D **3 components**



Unit vectors \vec{i} , \vec{j} and \vec{k} are unit vectors of magnitude 1 in Cartesian frame in direction along x , y , z axes

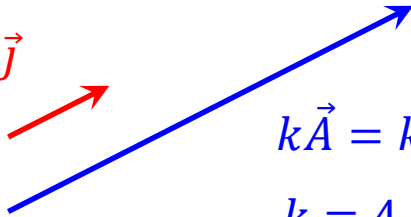
$$\vec{i} = (1,0,0), \quad \vec{j} = (0,1,0), \quad \vec{k} = (0,0,1)$$

A_x, A_y, A_z are the components along the three axes

$|\vec{A}|$ = **Magnitude** of the vector

Multiplying a vector by a scalar

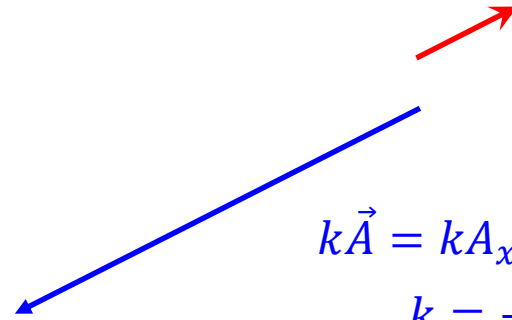
$$\vec{A} = A_x\vec{i} + A_y\vec{j} + A_z\vec{j}$$



$$k\vec{A} = kA_x\vec{i} + kA_y\vec{j} + kA_z\vec{j}$$

$$k = 4$$

$$\vec{A} = A_x\vec{i} + A_y\vec{j} + A_z\vec{j}$$



$$k\vec{A} = kA_x\vec{i} + kA_y\vec{j} + kA_z\vec{j}$$

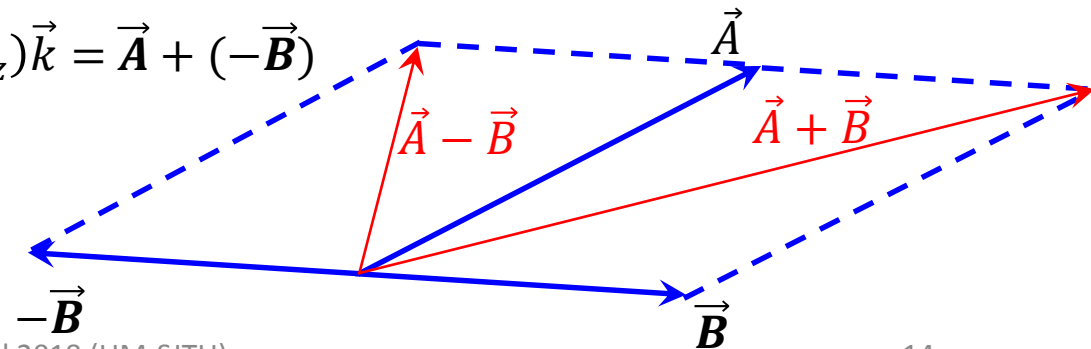
$$k = -4$$

Vectors \vec{A} and $k\vec{A}$ are co-linear (parallel)

Addition and subtraction of vectors

$$\vec{A} = A_x\vec{i} + A_y\vec{j} + A_z\vec{j} \quad \vec{A} + \vec{B} = (A_x + B_x)\vec{i} + (A_y + B_y)\vec{j} + (A_z + B_z)\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_x\vec{i} + B_y\vec{j} + B_z\vec{j} \quad \vec{A} - \vec{B} = (A_x - B_x)\vec{i} + (A_y - B_y)\vec{j} + (A_z - B_z)\vec{k} = \vec{A} + (-\vec{B})$$



Scalar product

Cartesian vs polar coordinates

$$\vec{A} = A_x \vec{i} + A_y \vec{j} \longrightarrow \text{Cartesian}$$

$$\vec{A} = |\vec{A}| \cos \theta_A \vec{i} + |\vec{A}| \sin \theta_A \vec{j} \longrightarrow \text{Polar}$$

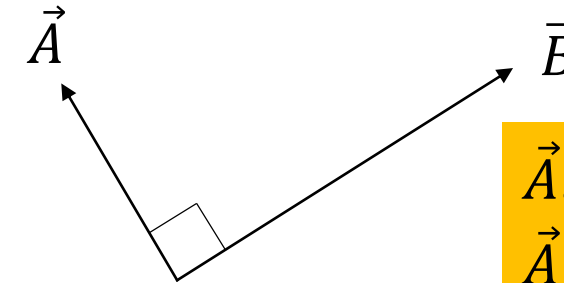
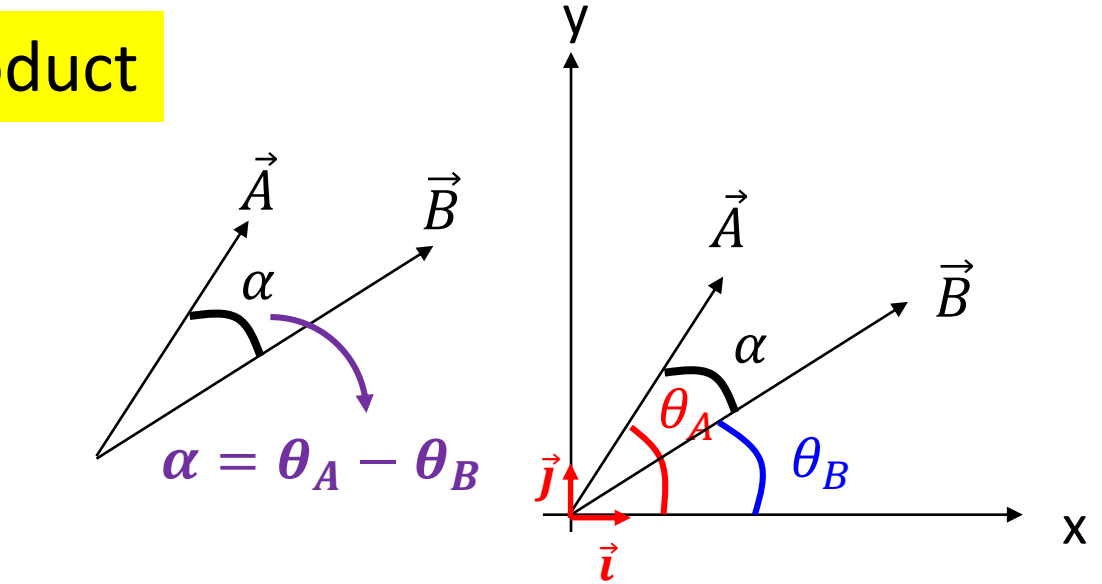
$$\vec{B} = B_x \vec{i} + B_y \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{B} = |\vec{B}| \cos \theta_B \vec{i} + |\vec{B}| \sin \theta_B \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \cos \theta_A \cos \theta_B + |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \sin \theta_A \sin \theta_B$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| [\cos \theta_A \cos \theta_B + \sin \theta_A \sin \theta_B]$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| [\cos(\theta_A - \theta_B)] = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \cos \alpha$$



$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \cos \alpha \\ \vec{A} \parallel \vec{B} &\Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \\ \vec{A} \perp \vec{B} &\Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

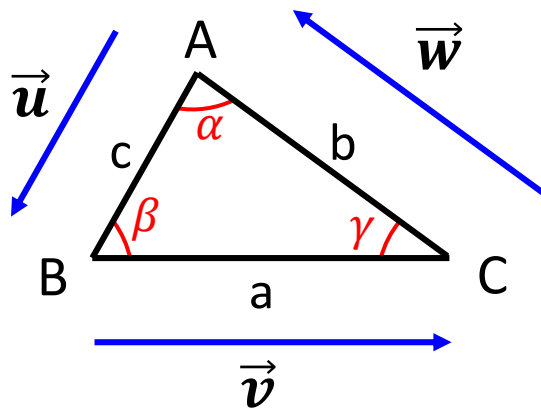
$$\cos(\theta_A - \theta_B) = \cos \theta_A \cos \theta_B + \sin \theta_A \sin \theta_B$$

Example: Al-Kashi's theorem

Given a triangle ABC, demonstrate on the basis of vector calculus Al-Kashi's theorem which states that:

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bccos(\alpha)$$

Where a is for BC, b for AC and c for AB and α is the angle \widehat{BAC} etc...



Vectors turning counterclockwise

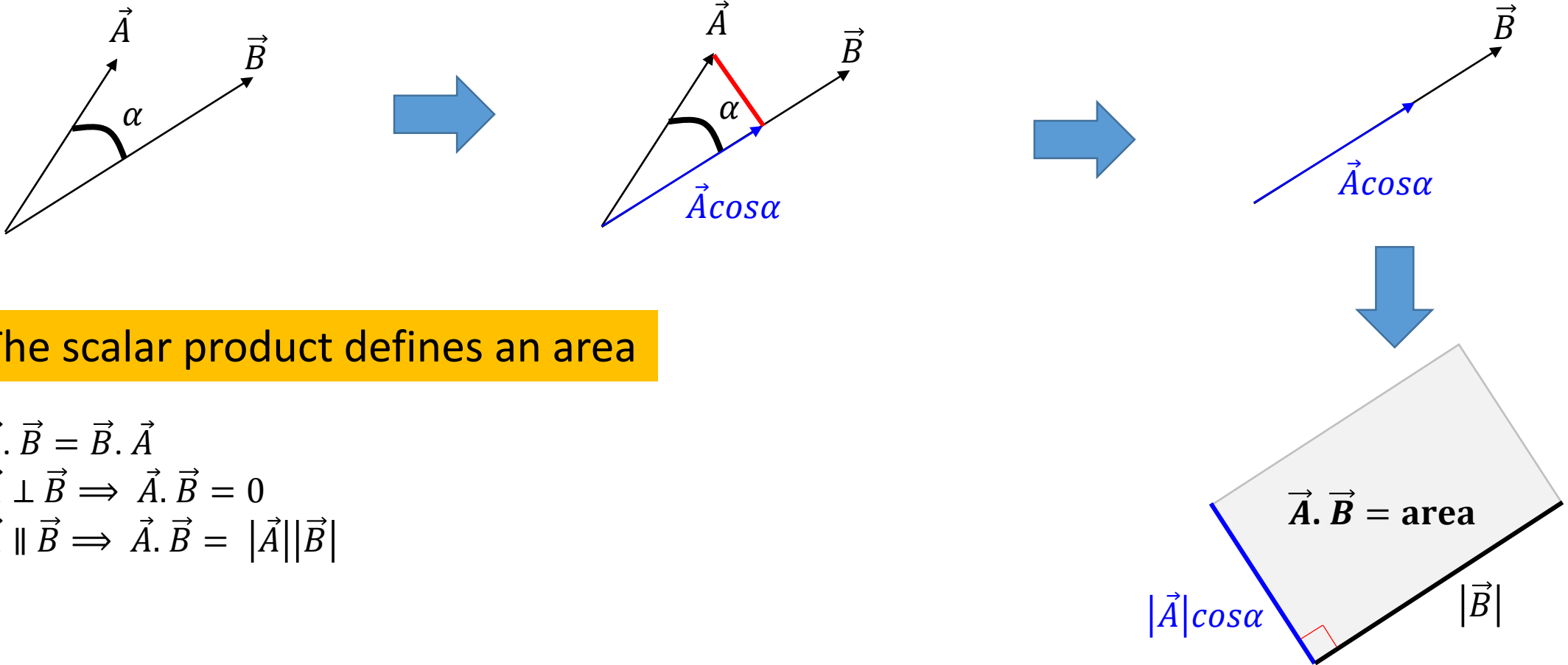
$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = -\vec{w}$$

$$a^2 = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} = (-\vec{w} - \vec{u})^2 = w^2 + v^2 + 2uwcos(\pi + \alpha)$$

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bccos(\alpha)$$

$$\text{Pythagoras's theorem} \Leftrightarrow \alpha = \pi/2 \Leftrightarrow a^2 = b^2 + c^2$$

Geometrical interpretation of Scalar product



The scalar product defines an area

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{A} \perp \vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\vec{A} \parallel \vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}||\vec{B}|$$

The area may involve other dimensions than surface !

Example of scalar product in physics

*Question #2

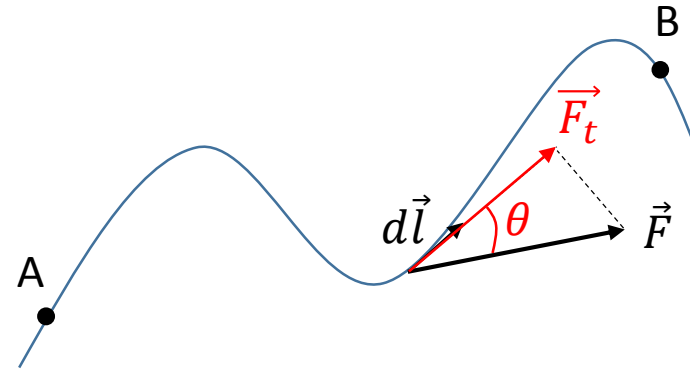
What major physical quantity is expressed by scalar product?

Answer to *Question #2

Work done by a force on a particle moving along a path AB

$$dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l} = F \cos \theta dl$$

$$W = \int_A^B F \cos \theta dl = \int_A^B F_t dl$$



Here the area has a new dimension: Energy

*Question #3

What is the value of the circulation in this case?

Answer to *Question #3

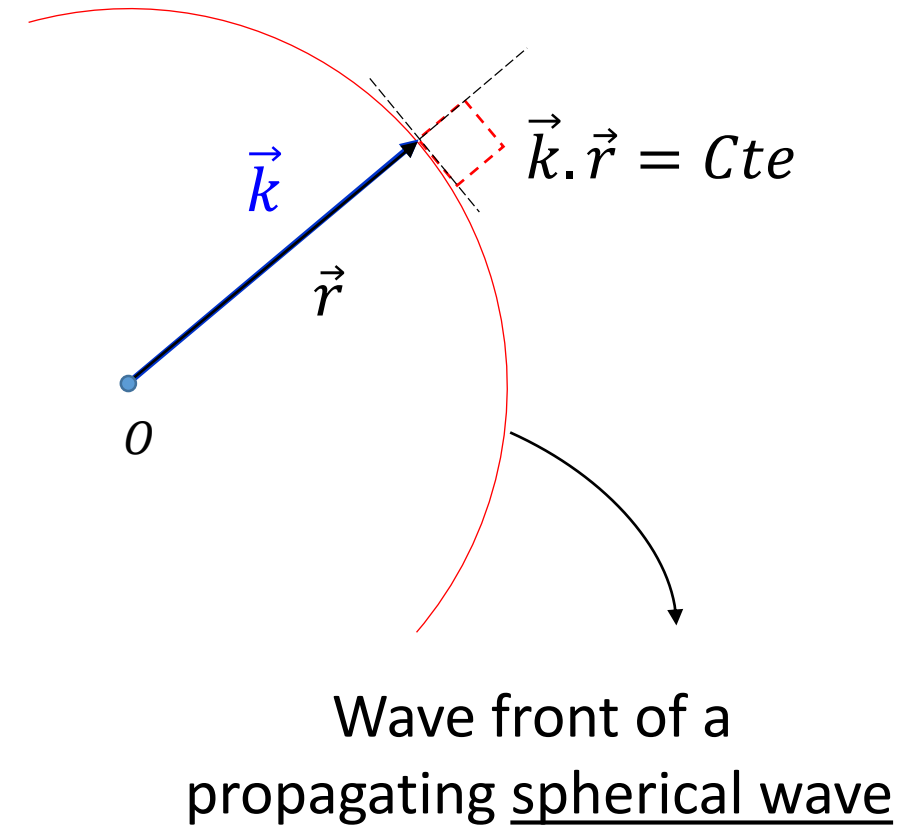
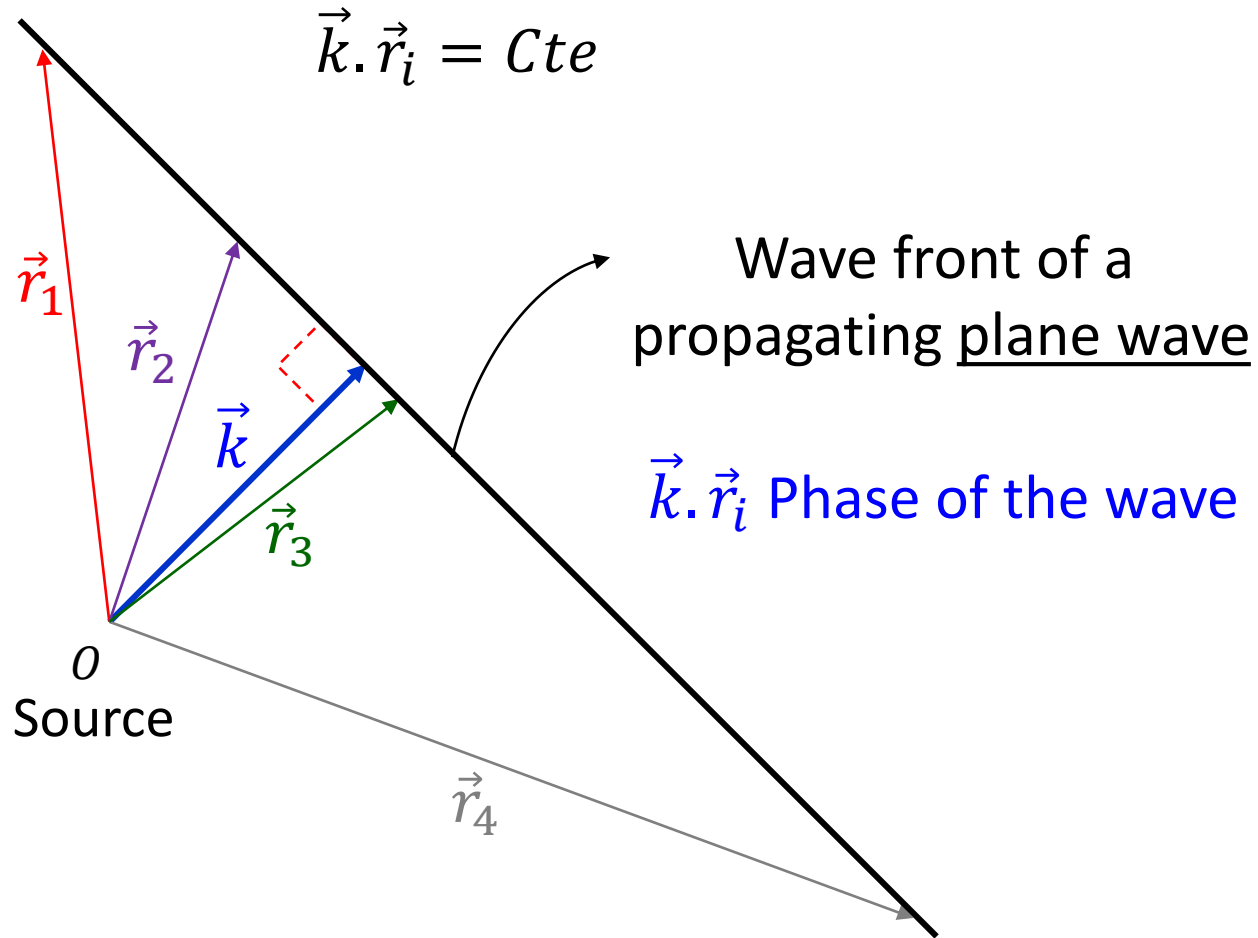
= **0**: force is conservative $\Rightarrow dW$ is exact differential

Line integral

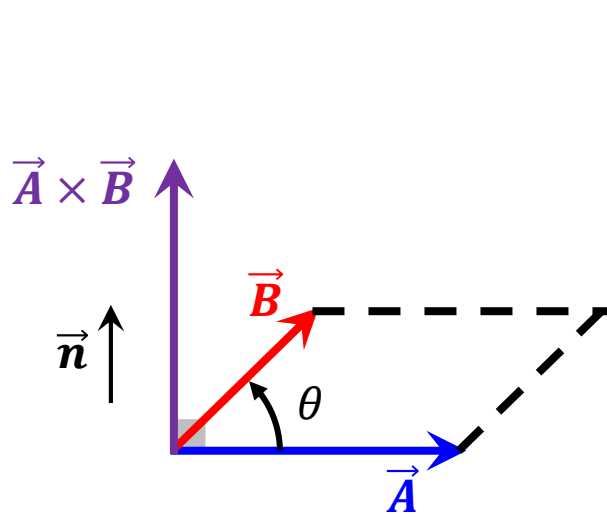
Close the path

Circulation

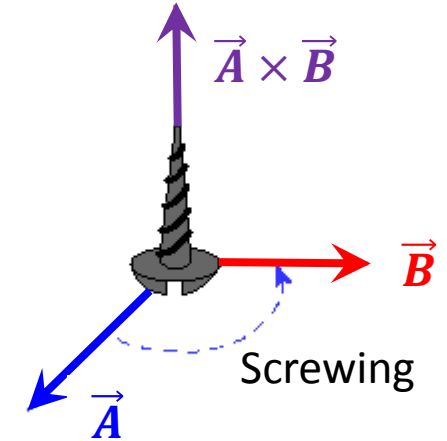
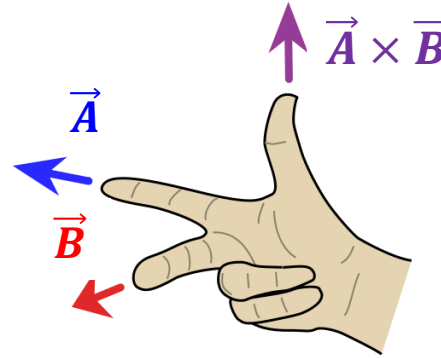
A very important property of scalar product in electromagnetism



Cross product



Right hand rule



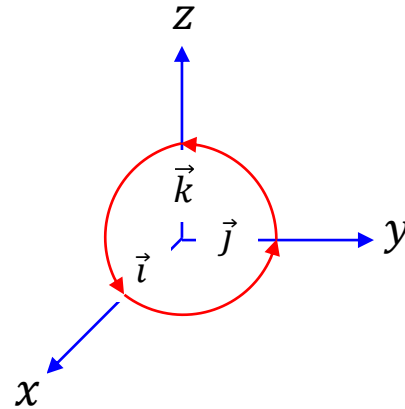
Screwing and unscrewing rule

- Screwing $\Rightarrow \vec{A} \times \vec{B}$
- Unscrewing $\Rightarrow \vec{B} \times \vec{A} = -\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \sin \theta \cdot \vec{n}$$

The vector “cross product” is **always** perpendicular to the plan containing the vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B}

Rules



Scalar product

$$\vec{i} \cdot \vec{i} = 1$$

$$\vec{j} \cdot \vec{j} = 1$$

$$\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = 1$$

$$\vec{i} \cdot \vec{j} = \vec{j} \cdot \vec{k} = \vec{k} \cdot \vec{i} = 0$$

Cross product

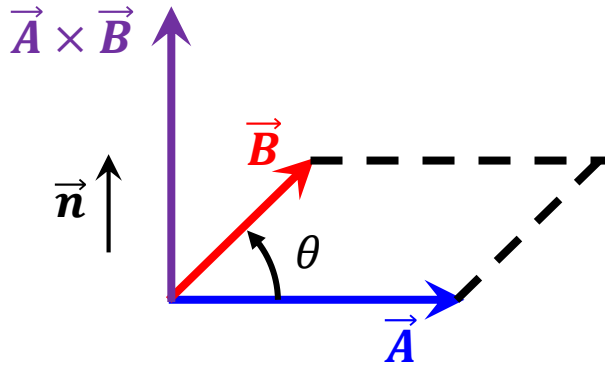
$$\vec{i} \times \vec{j} = \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{j} \times \vec{k} = \vec{i}$$

$$\vec{k} \times \vec{i} = \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{i} \times \vec{i} = \vec{j} \times \vec{j} = \vec{k} \times \vec{k} = \vec{0}$$

Calculating Cross product in Cartesian coordinates



Cartesian notation

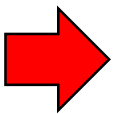
$$\vec{A} = A_x \vec{i} + A_y \vec{j} + A_z \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_x \vec{i} + B_y \vec{j} + B_z \vec{k}$$

+



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



$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) \vec{i} - (A_x B_z - A_z B_x) \vec{j} + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \vec{k}$$

Scalar versus Vector product

Scalar product

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{A} \perp \vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{---\textcolor{red}{dashed line}\text{---}} \rightarrow \vec{A} \perp \vec{B} \Rightarrow |\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}|$$

$$\vec{A} \parallel \vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \quad \leftarrow \text{---\textcolor{red}{dashed}} \rightarrow \quad \vec{A} \perp \vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{0}$$

Cos is involved

Cross product

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

$$\vec{A} \perp \vec{B} \implies |\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}|$$

$$\vec{A} \parallel \vec{B} \implies \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{0}$$

Sin is involved

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{A} = \vec{0} \quad (\theta = 0 \text{ then } \sin(\theta) = 0)$$

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

$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = 0$$

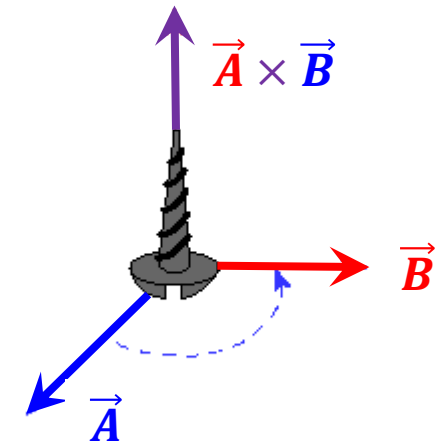
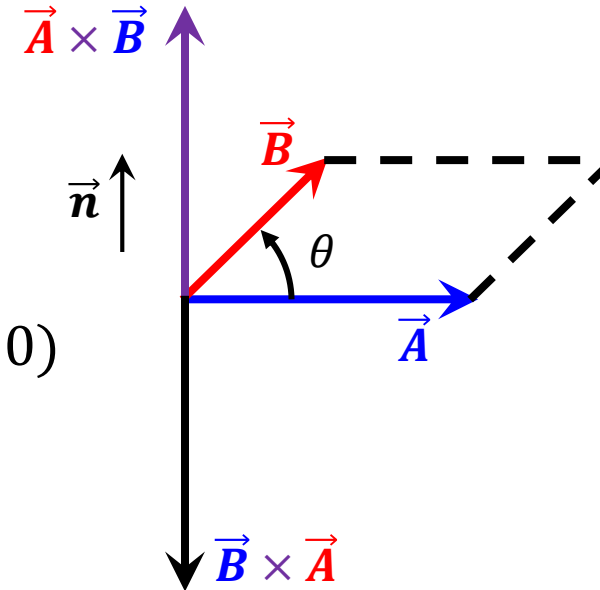
Scalar product $(\theta = \pi/2 \text{ then } \cos(\theta) = 0)$

$$\vec{B} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = 0$$

A property that did not escape to Maxwell's attention !

Final exam Fall 2017

« Chance favors prepared minds » (Louis Pasteur)



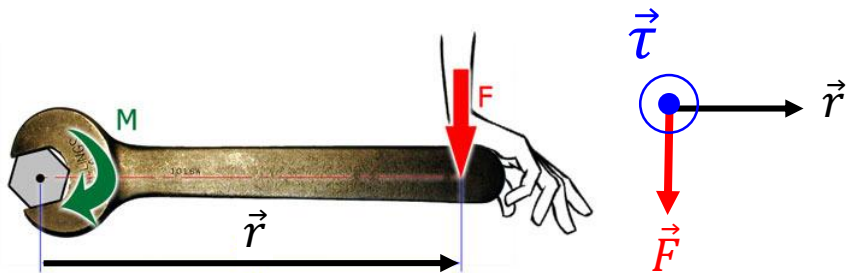
****Question #3

Give four examples in physics involving cross product:
Two from classical mechanics and two from Vp260

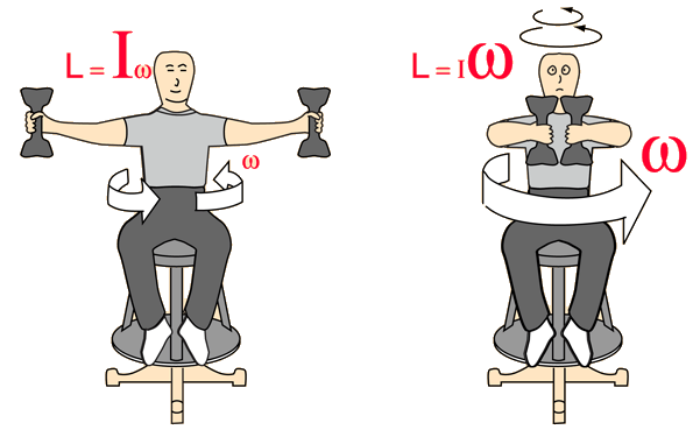
Answer to ****Question #3

From classical mechanics

Torque : $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$



Angular Momentum: $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times m\vec{v}$

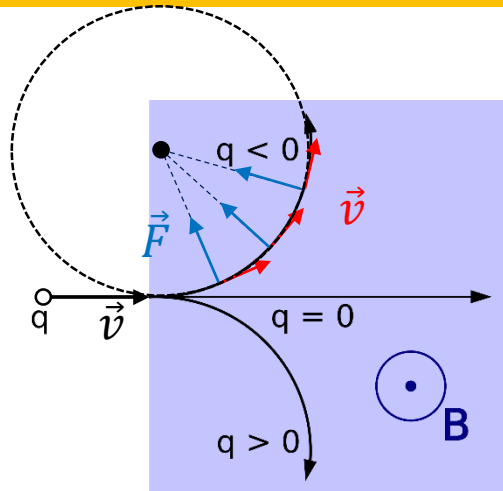


Example of cross product

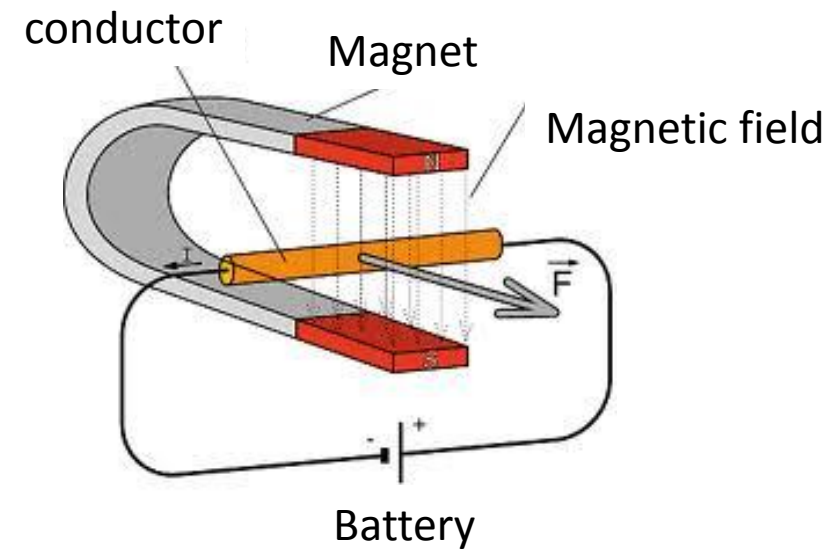
Answer to ****Question #3

From magnetostatic

Lorentz force: $\vec{F} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$



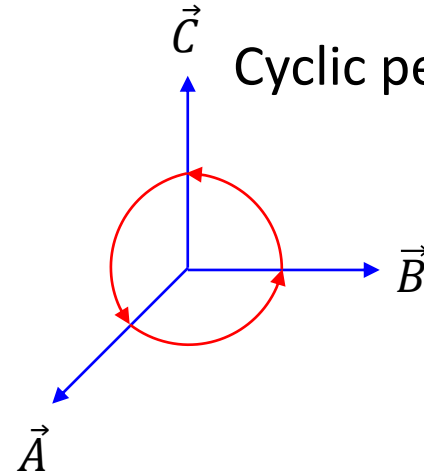
Laplace force: $\vec{F} = I\vec{l} \times \vec{B}$



Some geometrical interpretation of Cross product

Scalar triple product

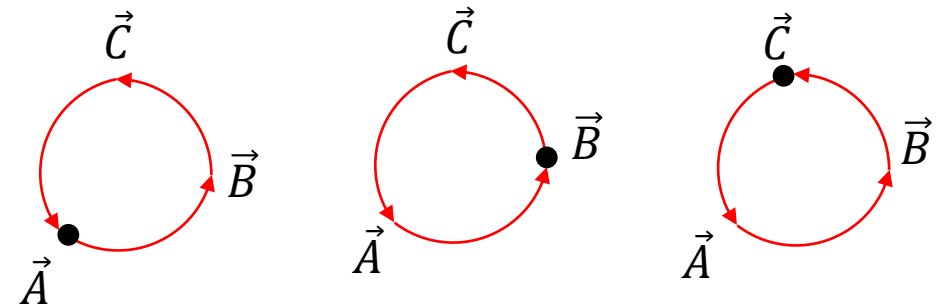
$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{C})$$



Cyclic permutation

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

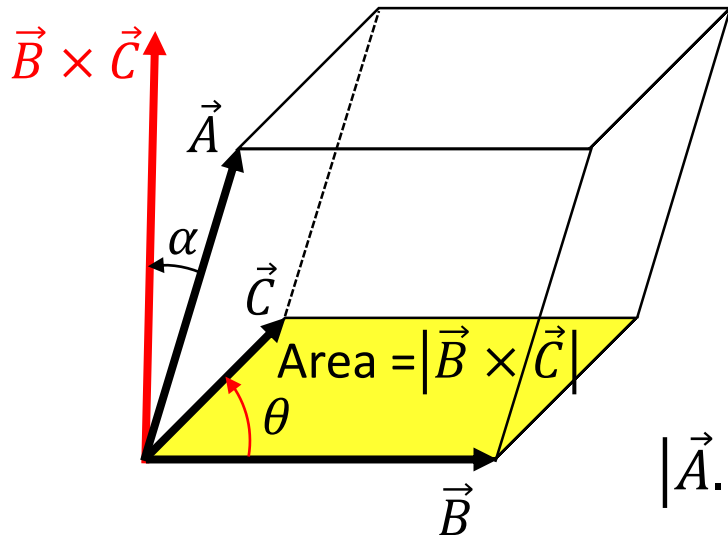
Commutativity of dot product



Counterclockwise

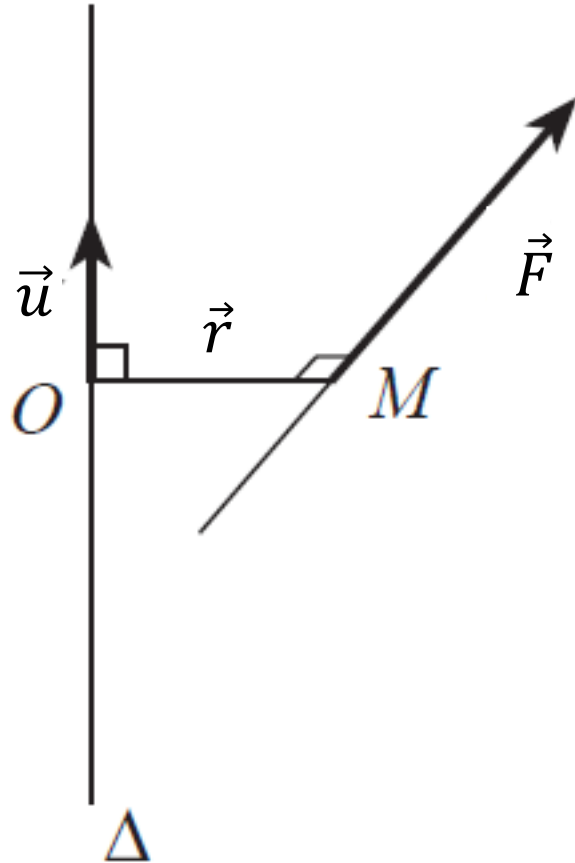
$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = \begin{pmatrix} A_X & A_Y & A_Z \\ B_X & B_Y & B_Z \\ C_X & C_Y & C_Z \end{pmatrix} = V$$

If $\alpha = 0$ and $\theta = \pi/2$ → Cube



$$|\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{C})| = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| |\vec{C}| (\cos \alpha) (\sin \theta) = \text{volume of the parallelepiped}$$

Example of a Scalar triple product



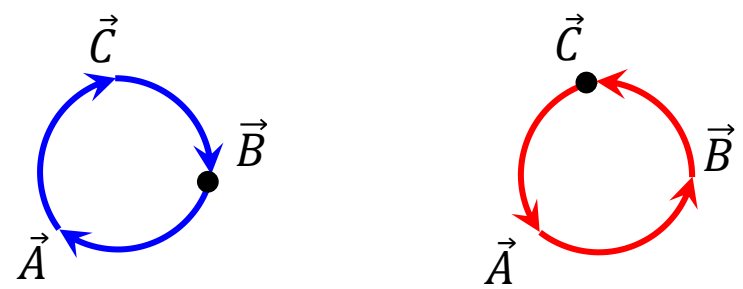
Moment of a force about an axis

$$\Gamma_{\Delta} = \vec{u} \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{F})$$

Cross triple product

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

These are NOT scalar product !
 Scalar times Vector = Vector



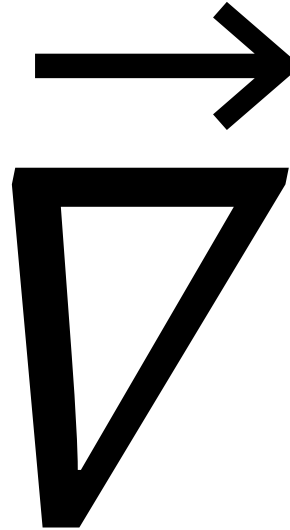
clockwise counterclockwise

Caution ! When dealing with vector fields and operators, $\vec{C}(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})$ may lose physical meaning then we use commutativity $\underbrace{(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})}_a \vec{C}$

$\Rightarrow a\vec{C}$

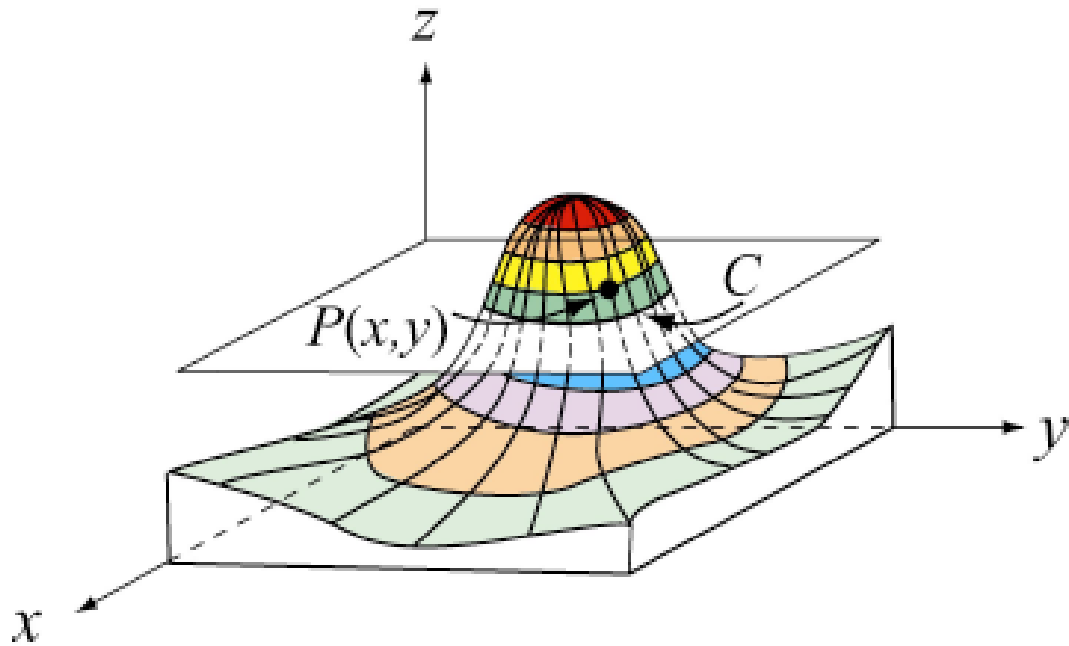
Manipulating scalar and vector fields

The central master piece in Electromagnetism

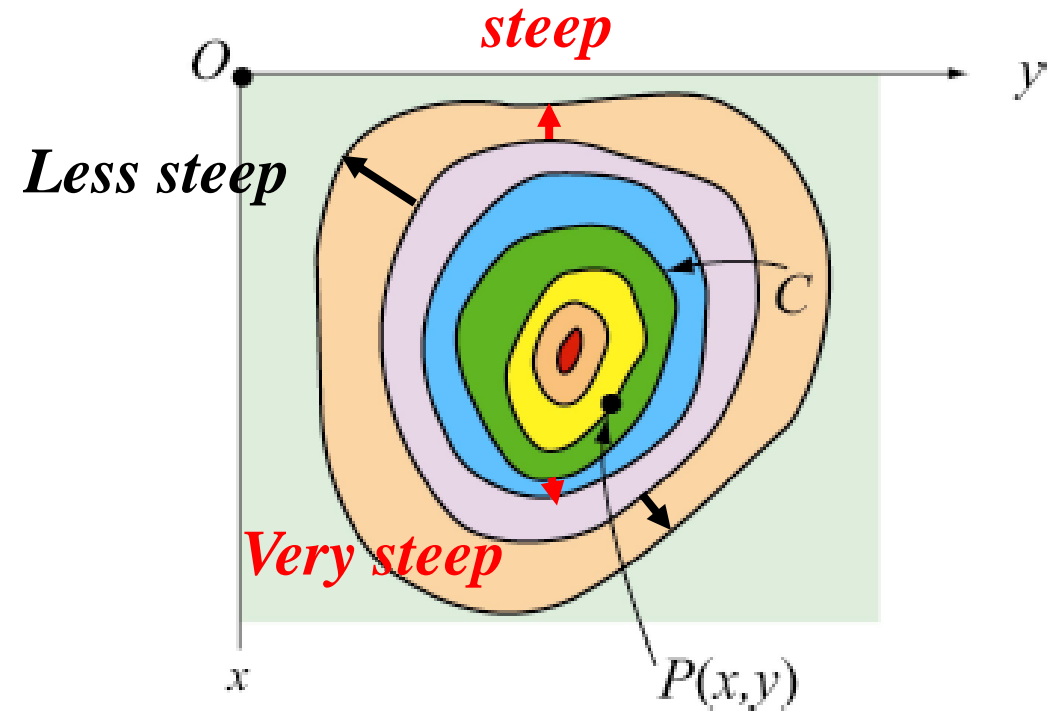


The Nabla or Del operator

Topographic map of a mountain: Hiking in the mountain



side view of a mountain

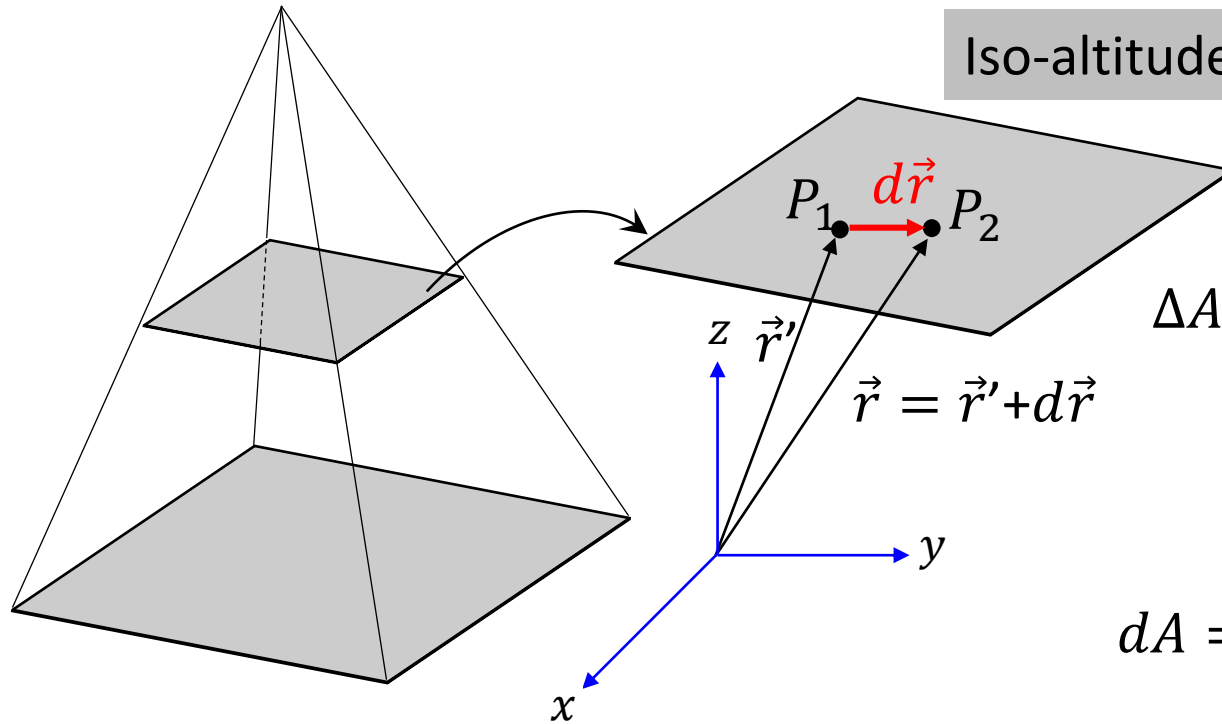


top view of iso-altitude surfaces

Where the arrow is small, the path is steep

How can we link the steepness to the iso-altitude surfaces?

Another way of looking at the gradient



Iso-altitude surface

$$P_1 \rightarrow P_2$$

$$A(x, y, z) \rightarrow A(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y, z + \Delta z)$$

$A = \text{Altitude}$

$$\Delta A = A(P_1) - A(P_2) = \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial A}{\partial y} \Delta y + \frac{\partial A}{\partial z} \Delta z = 0$$

$$\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z \rightarrow 0$$

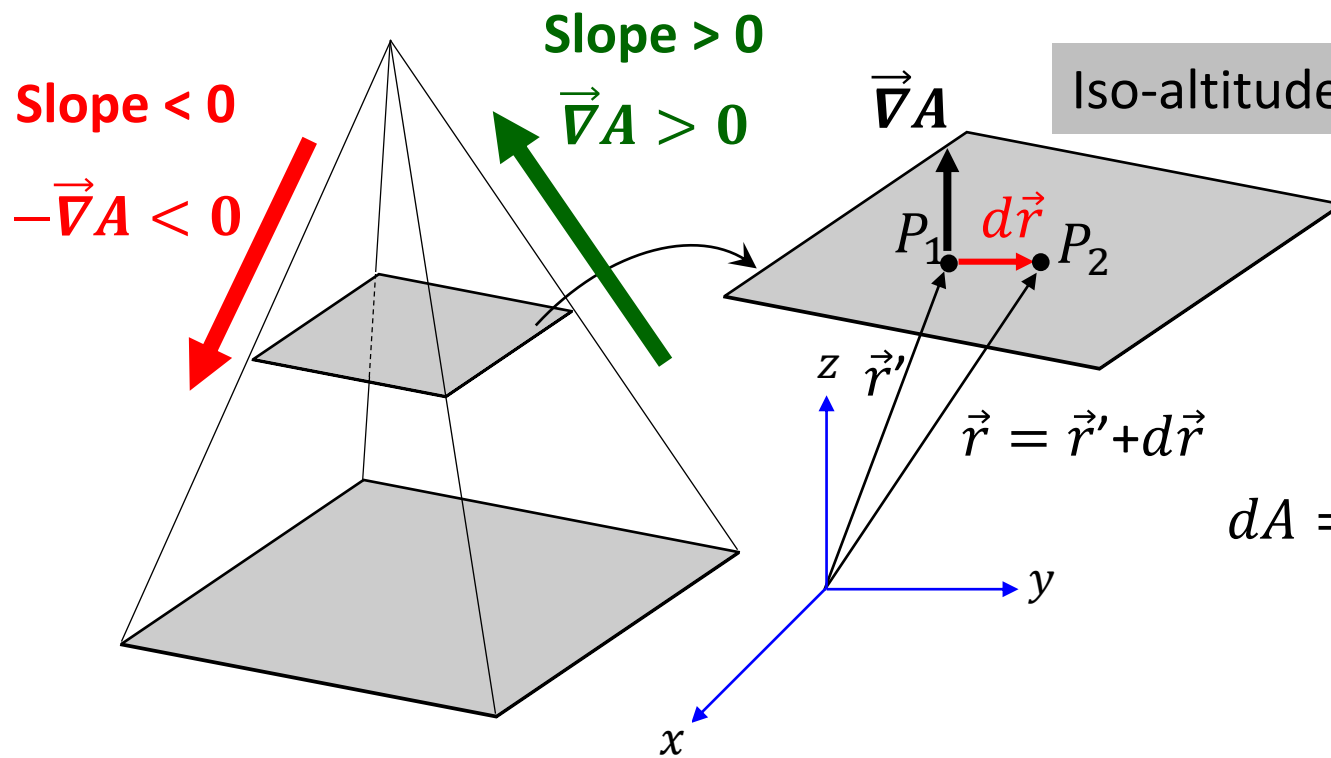
$$dA = A(P_1) - A(P_2) = \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial A}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial A}{\partial z} dz = 0$$

What do dx , dy and dz represent?

The components of the vector displacement $d\vec{r}$

$$d\vec{r} = dx\vec{i} + dy\vec{j} + dz\vec{k}$$

Another way of looking at the gradient



$$P_1 \rightarrow P_2$$

$$A(x, y, z) \rightarrow A(x + dx, y + dy, z + dz)$$

$$dA = A(P_1) - A(P_2) = \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial A}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial A}{\partial z} dz = 0$$

How can we transform this sum of products?

$$dA = \left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial A}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial A}{\partial z} \vec{k} \right) \cdot (dx \vec{i} + dy \vec{j} + dz \vec{k}) = 0$$

$$dA = \vec{\nabla} A \cdot d\vec{r} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vec{\nabla} A \perp d\vec{r}$$

In mathematics two sets of three numbers each, (a, b, c) and (a', b', c') , arranged as:

$$aa' + bb' + cc' = \text{scalar product of two vectors}$$

$$\vec{U} = a\vec{i} + b\vec{j} + c\vec{k} \qquad \vec{V} = a'\vec{i} + b'\vec{j} + c'\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{U} \cdot \vec{V} = aa' + bb' + cc'$$

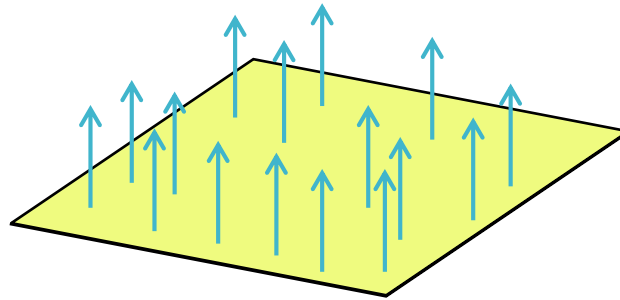
The same concerns two sets of one or two numbers:

$$(a) \text{ and } (a') \longrightarrow \vec{U} = a\vec{i} \qquad \vec{V} = a'\vec{i} \qquad \vec{U} \cdot \vec{V} = aa'$$

$$(a, b) \text{ and } (a', b') \longrightarrow \vec{U} = a\vec{i} + b\vec{j} \qquad \vec{V} = a'\vec{i} + b'\vec{j} \qquad \vec{U} \cdot \vec{V} = aa' + bb'$$

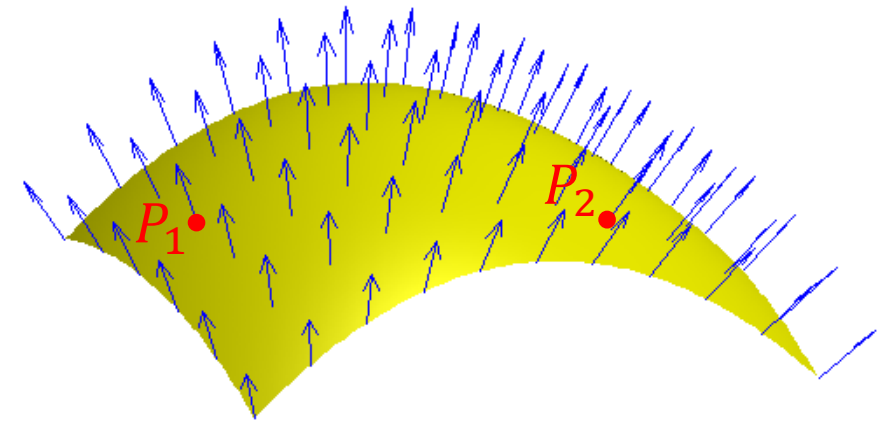
Property of the gradient of a scalar field $f(x, y, z)$ at a given point $P(x, y, z)$, $\vec{\nabla} f(x, y, z)$

- If the iso-surface is flat, the vector is perpendicular everywhere to this surface

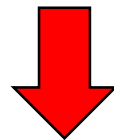


Gradient vectors parallel everywhere on the iso-surface

- If the iso-surface is curved, the vector $\vec{\nabla} f(x, y, z)$ is perpendicular to surface at the specified point $P(x, y, z)$



Gradient vectors at P_1 and P_2 are not parallel on the same iso-surface



The gradient is a local property

Water flows naturally from top to bottom

→ $\vec{W}(x, y, z, t) = -K_w \vec{\nabla} A(x, y, z, t)$

$A(x, y, z, t)$ = Iso-altitude surface

Heat flows naturally from hot to cold

→ $\vec{h}(x, y, z, t) = -K_h \vec{\nabla} T(x, y, z, t)$

$T(x, y, z, t)$ = Iso-thermal surface

Electric field also “flows” from $+q$ to $-q$

→ $\vec{E}(x, y, z, t) = -\vec{\nabla} V(x, y, z, t)$

$V(x, y, z, t)$ = Iso-potential surface

The same equation governs electromagnetism, water flow, heat flow etc...

→ See A_Lecture 1_General

***Question #4** What is for a point charge the shape of the iso-potential surface ?

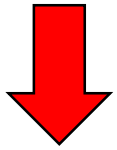
Answer to *Question #4

Spheres centered on the charge

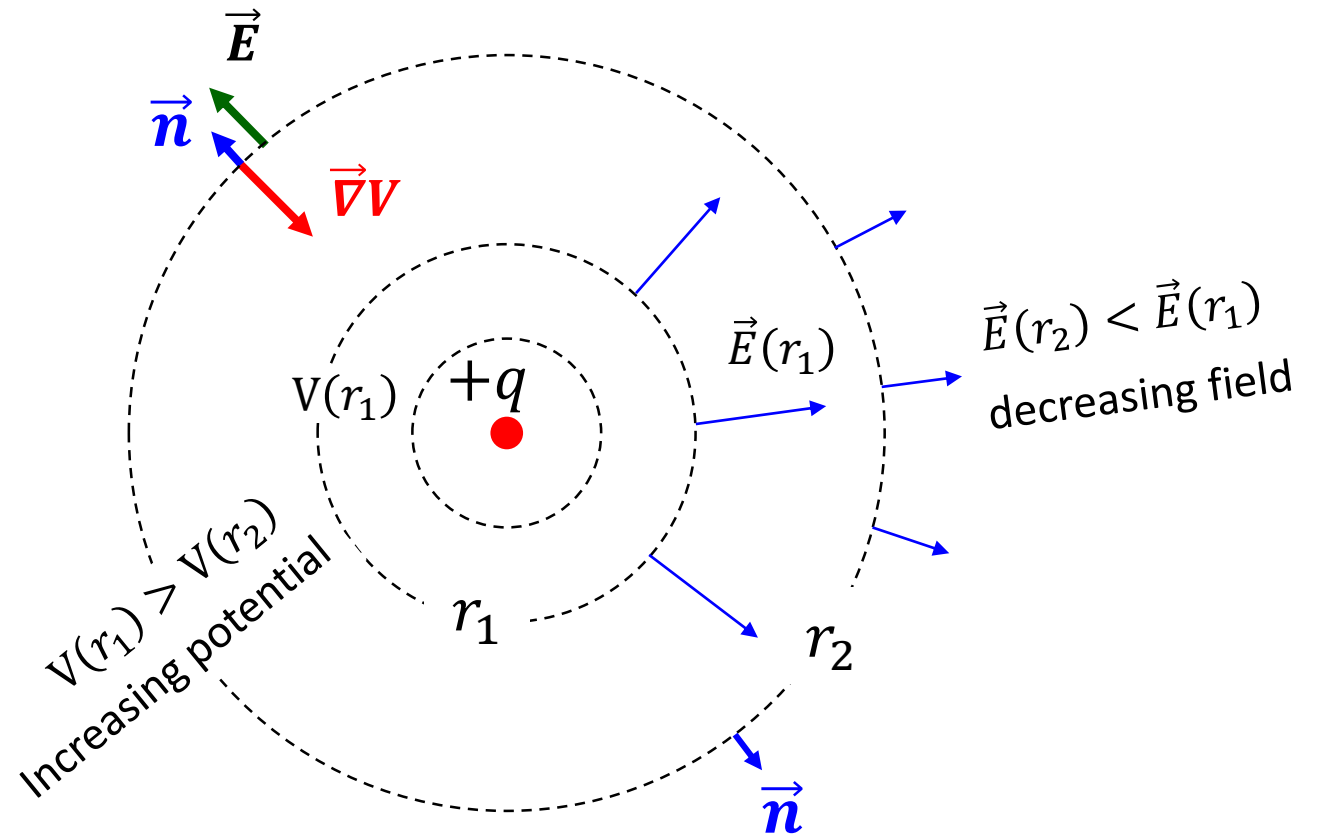
$$\vec{E} \parallel \vec{n} \perp \text{iso-potential surface}$$

$$\vec{E}(x, y, z, t) = -\vec{\nabla}V(x, y, z, t)$$

$$V(x, y, z, t) = \text{cte}$$



Iso-potential surface



First part of the first Maxwell's equation

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V$$

Valid in Electrostatic only

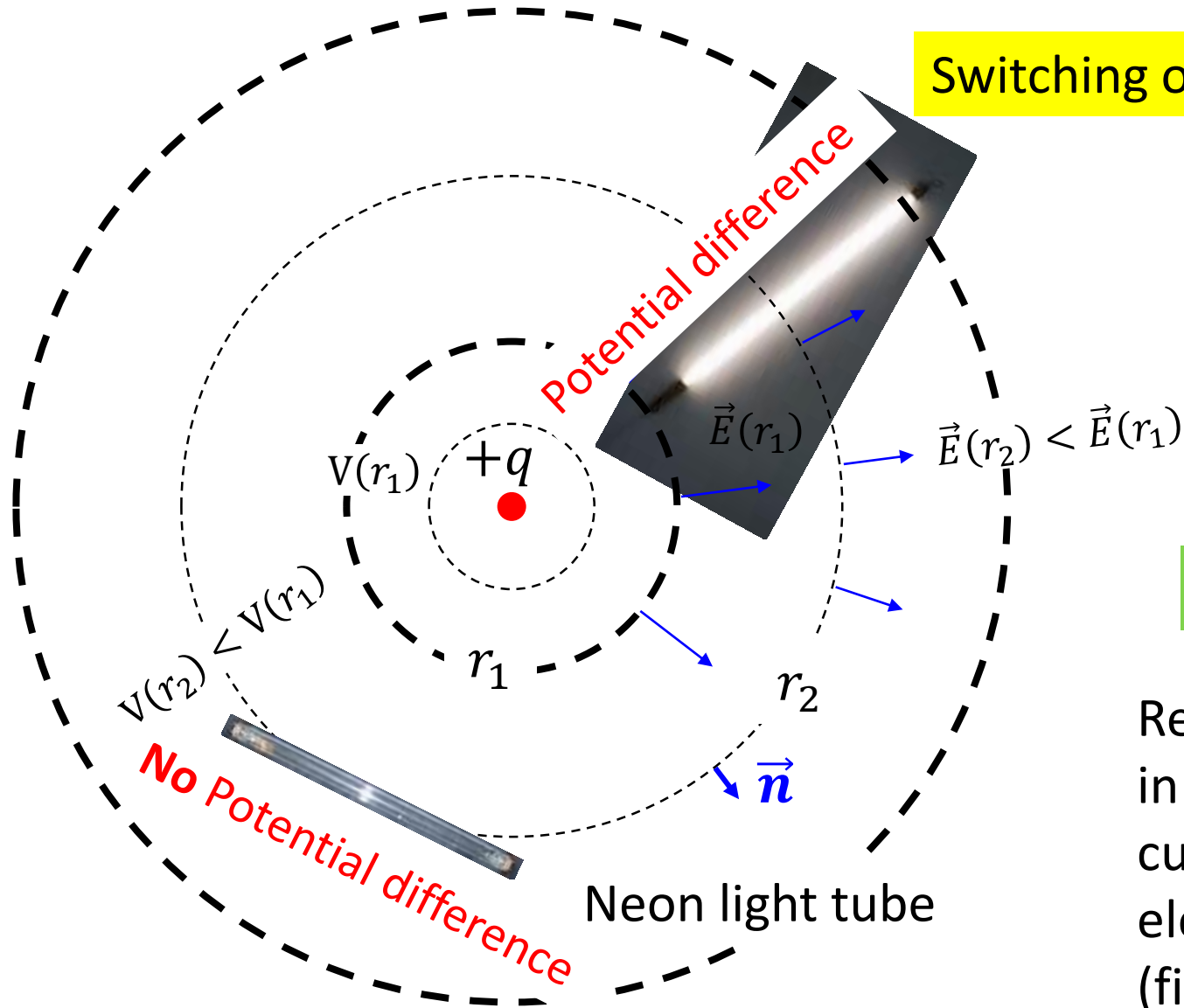
Switching on the light without any closed circuit !

***Question #5

Does it flash or remains ON ?

Answer to ***Question #5

Remains ON as long as discharge in gas is acting. In a pure metal the current would vanish quickly as electrons stop moving (field inside = 0)



The Nabla or Del operator

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

This operator alone means nothing, just as...

$\sqrt{\quad}$

means nothing

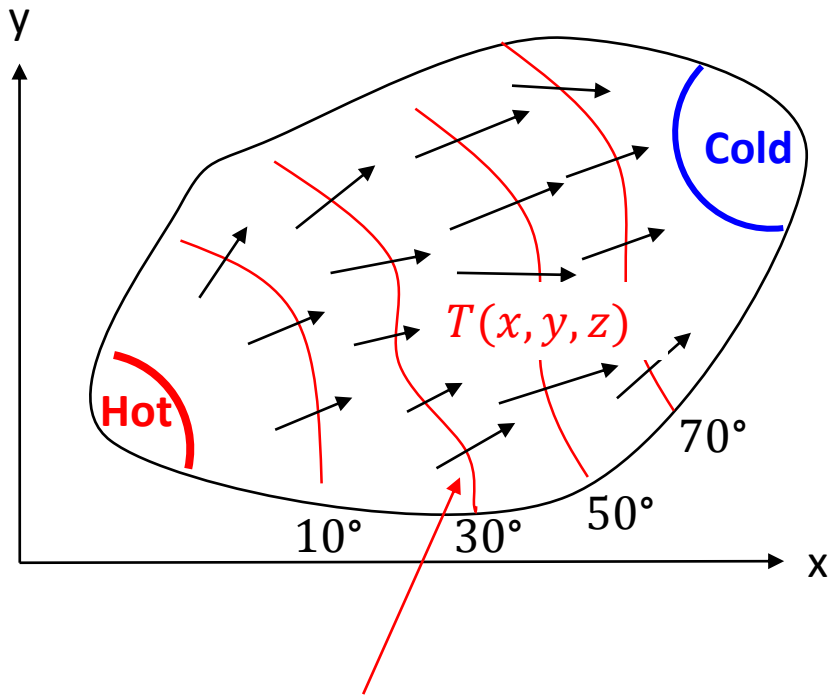
Both operators must have something to act on

The best way to visualize the scalar and vector fields is via heat propagation
How do we get the flux?

Scalar field: Temperature in 3D space

*Question #6

Does temperature move or change from one position in space to another?



*Answer to question #6

$T(x, y, z)$ does not move: **It changes**

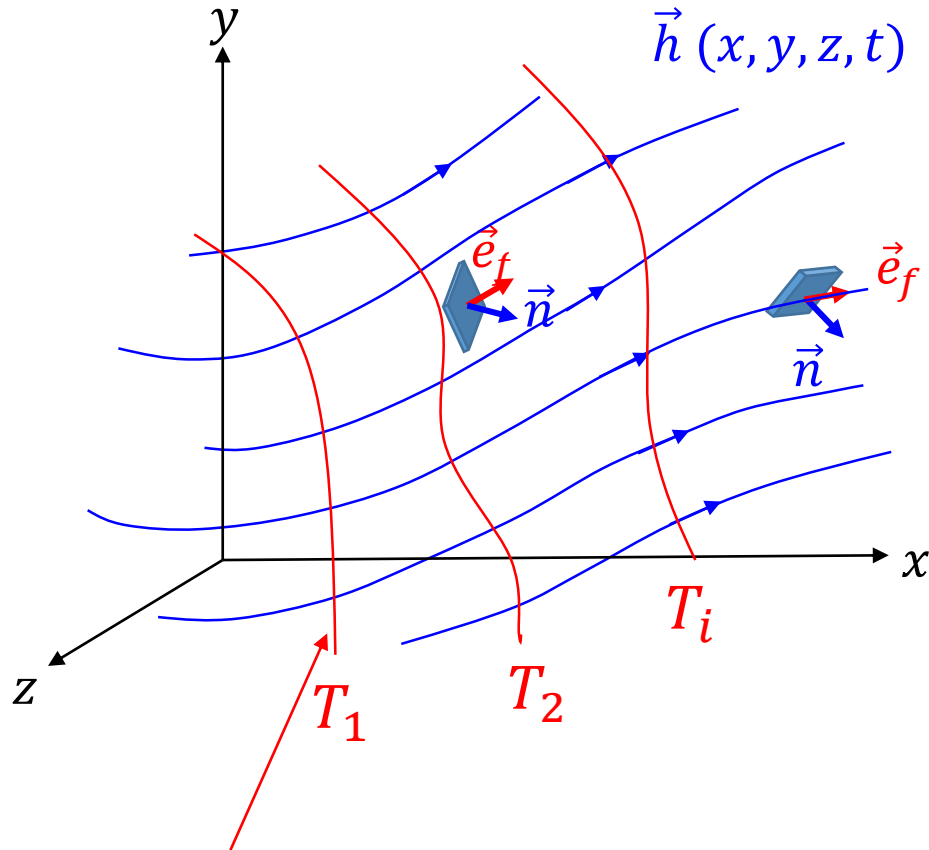


- Temperature $T(x, y, z)$ is a scalar field
- If it depends on time $\Rightarrow T(x, y, z, t)$

Isotherm = isothermal line (2D) or surface (3D)

Defining the concept of Flux

Vector field: Heat flow in 3D space



Heat $\vec{h}(x, y, z, t)$ is a vector field. It flows in 3D space

It gives rise to a scalar field: temperature in 3D space $T(x, y, z, t)$

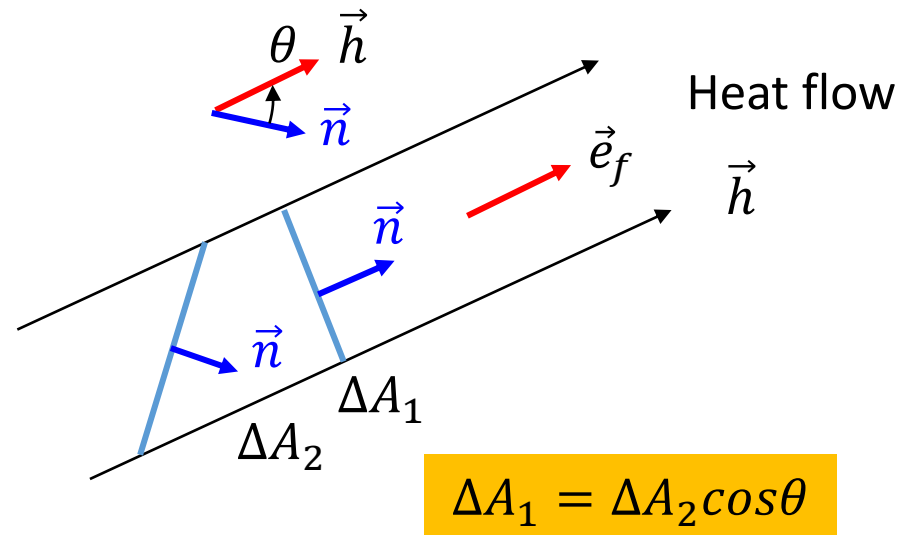
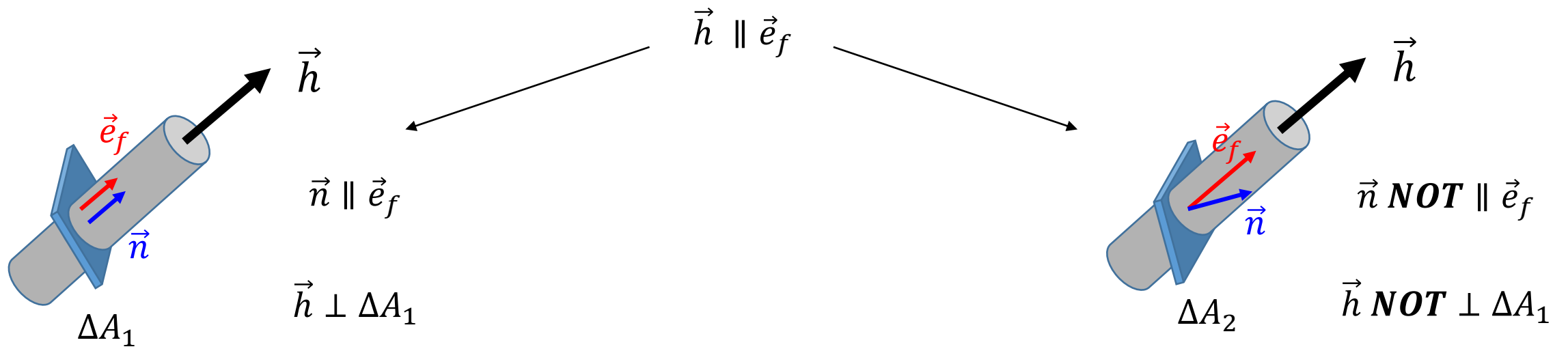
$|\vec{h}(x, y, z, t)|$ = How much heat is flowing
= Thermal energy/time/area

$$\vec{h}(x, y, z, t) = (\text{scalar quantity})\vec{e}_f \quad \text{Heat flow}$$

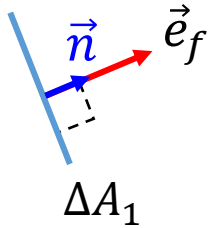
Thermal energy/time/area

Isotherm

- Need to define a unit vector along the flow \vec{e}_f at a given location in space
- Need to define a unit vector \vec{n} for the area under consideration at a given location in space

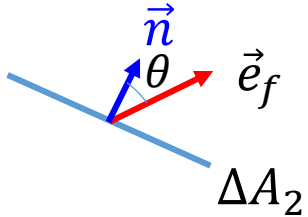


Definition of heat flow \vec{h}



$$\vec{h}(x, y, z, t) = \frac{P}{\Delta A_1} \vec{e}_f = |\vec{h}| \vec{e}_f$$

P = Thermal energy/time



What is the flow per unit area through ΔA_2 ?

?

Scalar product !

$$\frac{P}{\Delta A_2} = \frac{P}{\Delta A_1} \cos \theta = \vec{h} \cdot \vec{n} = |\vec{h}_\perp|$$

$$\Delta A_1 = \Delta A_2 \cos \theta \quad |\vec{h}| = |\vec{h}_\perp| \text{ if } \theta = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{e}_f = \vec{n}$$

$$Flux = \int_A \vec{h} \cdot \vec{n} dA$$

or

$$Flux = \int_A |\vec{h}_\perp| dA$$

Applying Del operator $\vec{\nabla}$ to heat flow

Gradient of a scalar field $T(x, y, z)$

Differentiate a stationary scalar field $T(x, y, z)$

$T(x, y, z) = \text{Cte} \Leftrightarrow$ Isotherm or isothermal surface

Reminder

$$\vec{\nabla} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \vec{k} \right)$$

Is **NOT** a vector as long as it does not operate on a scalar !

$$\Delta T(x, y, z) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \Delta y + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \Delta z}_{\text{dot product of two vectors}}$$

scalar

dot product of two vectors

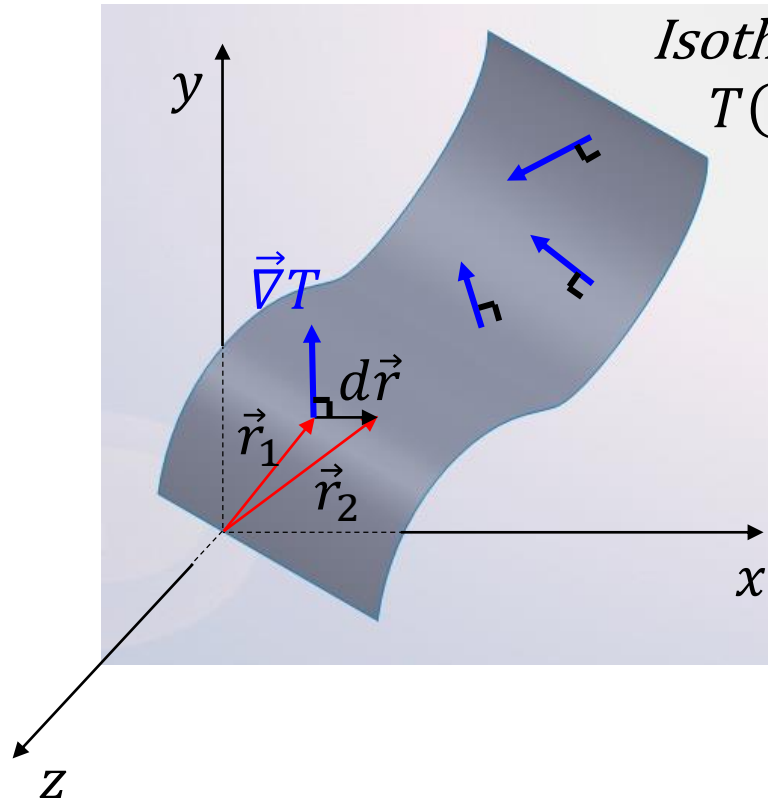


$$\underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \vec{k} \right)}_{\text{Vector}} \cdot \underbrace{(\Delta x \vec{i} + \Delta y \vec{j} + \Delta z \vec{k})}_{\text{Vector displacement}}$$



$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \vec{k} \right) T(x, y, z)$$

Vector Operator $\vec{\nabla}$

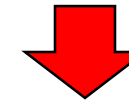


Isothermal surface

$$T(x, y, z) = T_0 \Rightarrow \Delta T(x, y, z) = T(x, y, z) - T_0 = 0$$

Temperature is everywhere the same on this surface

(Surface is not necessarily flat !)



$$\Delta T(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \vec{k} \right) \cdot (\Delta x \vec{i} + \Delta y \vec{j} + \Delta z \vec{k}) = 0$$

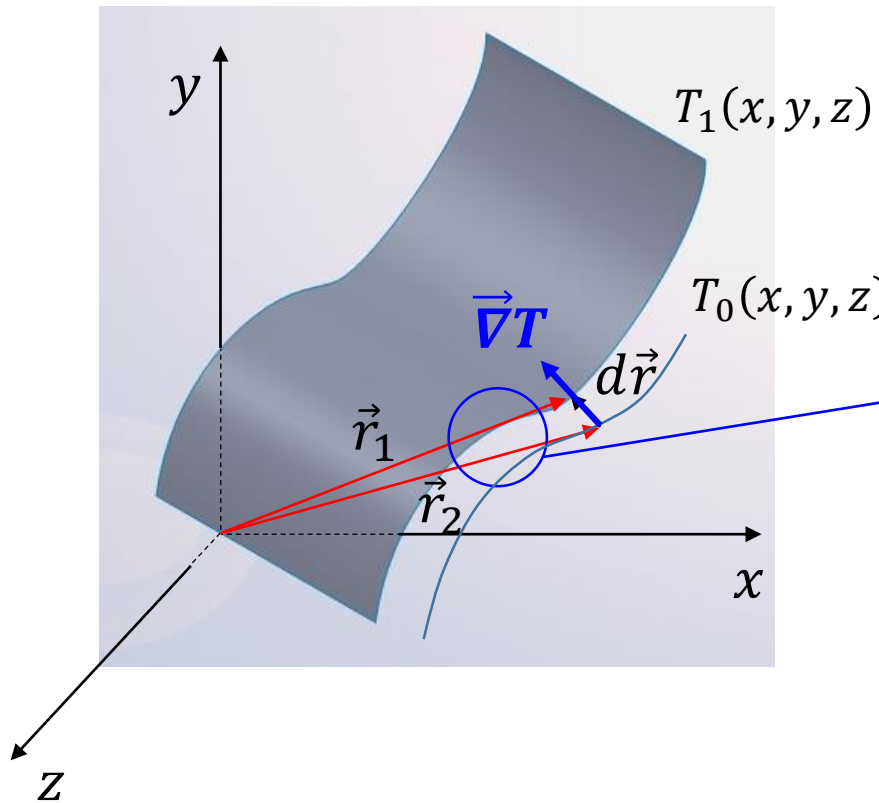
$$\Delta T(x, y, z) = \vec{\nabla}T \cdot d\vec{r} = |\vec{\nabla}T| \cdot |d\vec{r}| \cdot \cos(\theta) = 0$$

! ↑ ↑ ↑

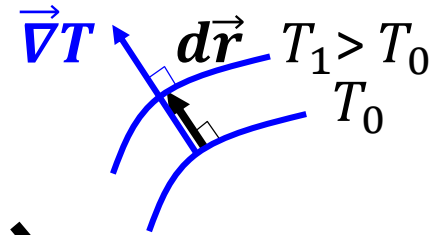
\vec{r}_1 and \vec{r}_2 indicate two close points on the isothermal surface

$\theta = \pi/2$ $\vec{\nabla}T$ and $d\vec{r}$ are \perp everywhere on the isothermal surface

- $d\vec{r}$ is tangent to the isothermal surface at (x, y, z)
- $\vec{\nabla}T$ is \perp to the isothermal surface **at** (x, y, z)



Isothermal surfaces T_1 and T_0



$$\begin{aligned}\Delta T(x, y, z) &= \vec{\nabla} T \cdot d\vec{r} = \nabla T \cdot dr \cdot \cos(\theta) \\ &= \nabla T \cdot dr = \text{Max} > 0 \\ \theta &= 0\end{aligned}$$

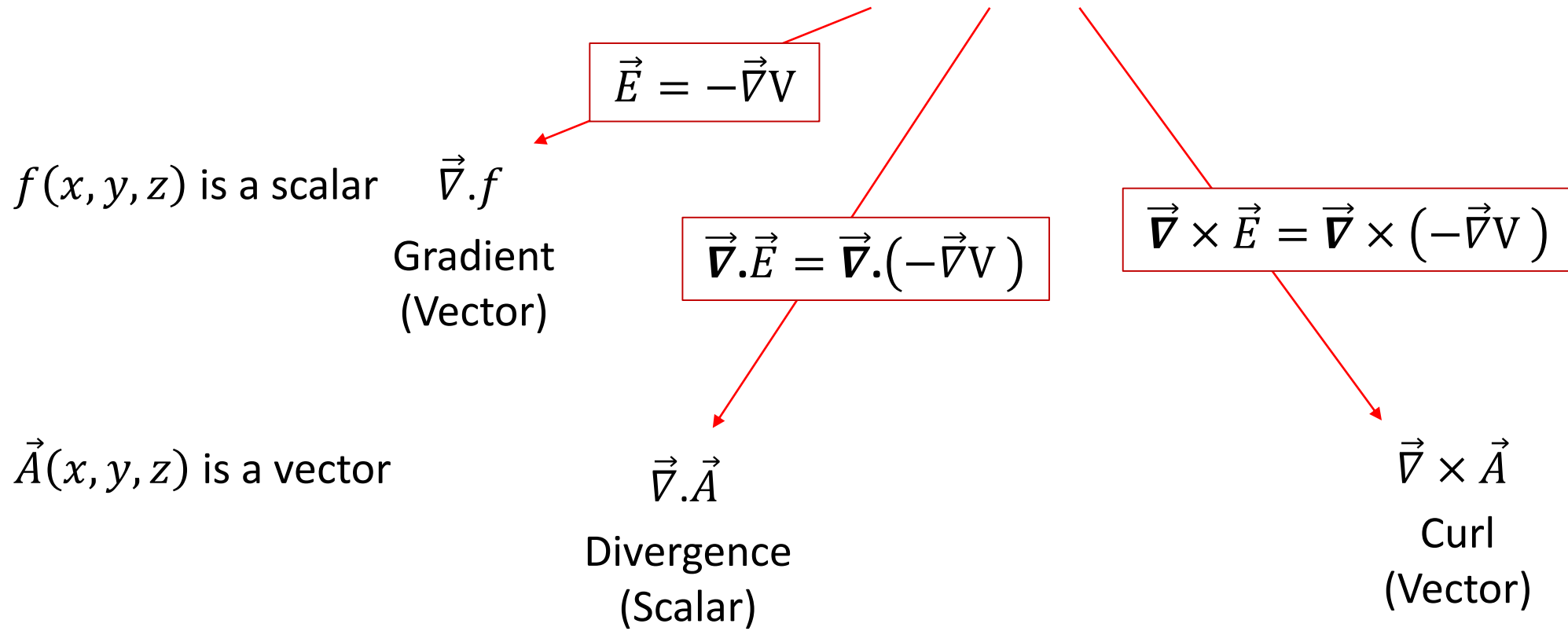
Natural flow of heat $\vec{h} \propto -\vec{\nabla} T$

$$\Delta T > 0, dr > 0, \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} T \parallel d\vec{r}, \theta = 0$$

\vec{r}_1 and \vec{r}_2 indicate two close points
on two close isothermal surfaces

The gradient is oriented towards the increasing field

$\vec{\nabla}$ is a vector operator: What can we do with it?



All these things are local properties: They are defined at a specific point $P(x, y, z)$
Gradient, Divergence and Curl might be > 0 , < 0 *or* $= 0$



Del operator $\vec{\nabla}$ transforms a scalar field into a vector field

Gradient of a scalar field $T(x, y, z), V(x, y, z)$ etc... $\Leftrightarrow \vec{\nabla} T, \vec{\nabla} V$, etc...

($\vec{\nabla}$ = vector operating on a scalar field)



Del operator $\vec{\nabla}$ transforms a vector field into a scalar field: New concept, **Divergence**

Divergence of a vector field $\vec{A}(x, y, z)$ $\Leftrightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}$ (= "scalar product")

($\vec{\nabla}$ = vector operating on a vector field)



- What is the divergence of a vector and what is its physical meaning ?