

# Flux

Idea:

The flux of a [Vector field](#)  $\vec{F}$  through a surface  $S$  is defined as

$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} dS$$

where  $\vec{n}$  is the unit normal vector of that surface

There's no 3D version of it, because 3D objects have infinite normal vectors.

## Geometric Intuition

The amount of the vector field flowing through the surface.

## Surface Living in 3D

[Mapping > From 2D to 3D](#): Surface  $S$  is given by  $\vec{r}(u, v) = \langle x(u, v), y(u, v), z(u, v) \rangle$

Unit normal is  $\frac{\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v}{|\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v|}$

$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} dS = \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \frac{\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v}{|\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v|} dS$$

Also,  $dS = |\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v| du dv$ , so

$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} dS = \iint_D \vec{F} \cdot \frac{\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v}{|\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v|} (|\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v| du dv) = \iint_D \vec{F} \cdot (\vec{r}_u \times \vec{r}_v) du dv$$