

Curl of a vector field:

Curl is also a vector operator.

Curl operates on a vector

↓ results
Also a vector

Where as for div \rightarrow div. act on vector
↓ results
Scalar.

$\text{Curl } \vec{F} = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ the vector field is irrotational.

Whereas

$\text{div } \vec{F} = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ Solenoidal

$$\text{Curl } \vec{F} \text{ or } \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ F_1 & F_2 & F_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

(if $\vec{F} = F_1 \hat{i} + F_2 \hat{j} + F_3 \hat{k}$)

Example 41. Find the divergence and curl of $\vec{v} = (xyz)\hat{i} + (3x^2y)\hat{j} + (xz^2 - y^2z)\hat{k}$ at $(2, -1, 1)$ (Nagpur University, Summer 2003)

$$\text{div } \vec{v} = ?$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{k} \right) \cdot (xyz\hat{i} + (3x^2y)\hat{j} + (xz^2 - y^2z)\hat{k})$$

$$\Rightarrow yz + 3x^2 + 2xz - y^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} \right|_{2, -1, 1} &= (-1)(1) + 3(2)^2 + 2(2)(1) - (-1)^2 \\ &= -1 + 12 + 4 - 1 \\ &= 14 \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ xyz & 3x^2y & xz^2 - y^2z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \hat{i} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xz^2 - y^2z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (3x^2y) \right) \\ &\quad - \hat{j} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (xz^2 - y^2z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (xyz) \right) \\ &\quad + \hat{k} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3x^2y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xyz) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \hat{i} (0 - 2yz - 0) - \hat{j} (z^2 - 0 - xy) + \hat{k} (6xy - xz)$$

$$\vec{V} \times \vec{F} = -2yz \hat{i} + \hat{j} (-z^2 + xy) + (6xy - xz) \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{V} \times \vec{F} \Big|_{(2, -1, 1)} = -2(-1)(1) \hat{i} + [-(-1)^2 + 2(1)] \hat{j} + [6(2)(-1) - 2(1)] \hat{k}$$

$$= 2 \hat{i} - 3 \hat{j} - 14 \hat{k}$$

Example 42. If $\vec{V} = \frac{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$, find the value of curl \vec{V} .

$$\vec{V} \times \vec{V} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} & \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} & \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \end{vmatrix}$$

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

$$- \hat{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \hat{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right) \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2}} \right) = \frac{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2} \cdot 0 - z \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-3/2} \cdot 2y}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} - 1 = ?$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-zy(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-3/2}}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$= \frac{-zy}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) \cdot (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$= \frac{-zy}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2 + 1}}$$

$$= \frac{-zy}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

Continue remain steps

Example 43. Prove that $(y^2 - z^2 + 3yz - 2x)\hat{i} + (3xz + 2xy)\hat{j} + (3xy - 2xz + 2z)\hat{k}$ is both solenoidal and irrotational.

(U.P., I Sem, Dec. 2008)

$$\text{Let } \vec{v} = (y^2 - z^2 + 3yz - 2x)\hat{i} + (3xz + 2xy)\hat{j} + (3xy - 2xz + 2z)\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = 0 ; \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = 0$$

Do this a H.W. n.

Example 44. Determine the constants a and b such that the curl of vector

$$\vec{A} = (2xy + 3yz)\hat{i} + (x^2 + axz - 4z^2)\hat{j} - (3xy + byz)\hat{k} \text{ is zero.}$$

(U.P. I Semester, Dec 2008)

$$\vec{A} = (2xy + 3yz)\hat{i} + (x^2 + axz - 4z^2)\hat{j} - (3xy + byz)\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ (2xy + 3yz) & (x^2 + axz - 4z^2) & -(3xy + byz) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \hat{i}(-3x - bz - ax + 8z) + \hat{j}(6y) + \hat{k}(2x + az - 2x - 3z)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \hat{i}[-x(3+a) + z(8-b)] + 6y\hat{j} + z(a-3)\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = 0 ; \text{ w.k.t } \hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k} \neq 0 \therefore \text{they are unit vectors}$$

$$-x(3+a) + z(8-b) = 0$$

$$6y = 0$$

$$z(a-3) = 0 \text{ here } z=0 \text{ is a trivial solution.}$$

$$\therefore \text{Let's assume } z \neq 0 \therefore a = 3$$

$$-x(3+3) + z(8-b) = 0$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x(-3-a) = 0 \\ z(8-b) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{here } \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow x=0 \\ \rightarrow z=0 \end{array} \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \text{trivial solution} \\ \text{So lets assume } x \neq 0; z \neq 0$$

$$\begin{array}{l} -3-a=0 \quad ; \quad 8-b=0 \\ \text{(or)} \quad \boxed{a=3} \quad ; \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{b=8} \end{array}$$

Example 45. If a vector field is given by

$\vec{F} = (x^2 - y^2 + x)\hat{i} - (2xy + y)\hat{j}$. Is this field irrotational? If so, find its scalar potential.

(U.P. I Semester, Dec 2009)

$$\vec{F} = (x^2 - y^2 + x)\hat{i} - (2xy + y)\hat{j}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = 0 \leftarrow \text{irrotational.}$$

Any vector field which is irrotational can be given by gradient of a scalar fn:-

$$\vec{F} = \vec{\nabla} \phi \leftarrow \text{scalar field.}$$

usually " ϕ " is called the scalar potential of \vec{F} .

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \phi &= \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \hat{k} \\ &= \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (dx \hat{i} + dy \hat{j} + dz \hat{k}) \end{aligned}$$

$$d\phi = \vec{\nabla}\phi \cdot d\vec{r}$$

If \vec{F} is irrotational then $\vec{F} = \vec{\nabla}\phi$

$$d\phi = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\phi = \int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\vec{F} = (x^2 - y^2 + x)\hat{i} - (2xy + y)\hat{j}$$

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

$$\vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = (x^2 - y^2 + x)dx - (2xy + y)dy + 0dz$$

$$\phi = \int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$= \int x^2 dx - \int y^2 dx + \int x dx$$

$$- \int 2xy dy - \int y dy$$

$$= \frac{x^3}{3} + (C_1) - (y^2 x + C_2) + \left(\frac{x^2}{2} + C_3\right) - \left(2x \frac{y^2}{2} + C_4\right)$$

$$- \left(\frac{y^2}{2} + C_5\right)$$

$$= \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^2}{2} - xy^2 - \frac{y^2}{2} + (C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + C_5)$$

$$\phi = \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^2}{2} - 2xy^2 - \frac{y^2}{2} + c //$$

$$\int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \phi //$$

Assignment Doubt

11. Find the values of constants a, b, c so that the maximum value of the directional derivative of $\phi = axy^2 + byz + cz^2x^3$ at $(1, 2, -1)$ has a maximum magnitude 64 in the direction parallel to the axis of z .

Ans. $a = b, b = 24, c = -8$

$$\phi = axy^2 + byz + cz^2x^3$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \phi = (ay^2 + 3cz^2x^2)\hat{i} + (2yax + bz)\hat{j} + (by + 2czx^3)\hat{k}$$

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

DD of $\vec{\nabla} \phi$ along x axis " \hat{i} "

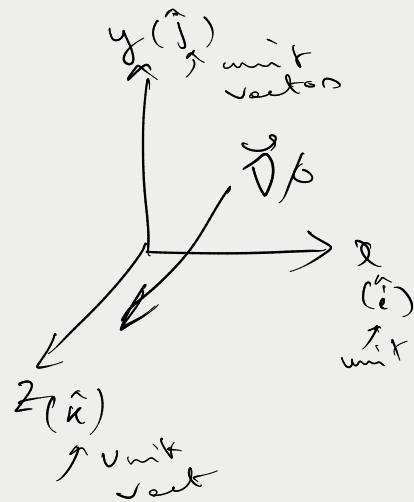
$$\vec{\nabla} \phi|_p \cdot \hat{i} = 4a + 3c \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

DD of $\vec{\nabla} \phi$ along y axis " \hat{j} "

$$\vec{\nabla} \phi|_p \cdot \hat{j} = 4a - b \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

DD of $\vec{\nabla} \phi$ along z axis " \hat{k} "

$$\vec{\nabla} \phi|_p \cdot \hat{k} = 2b - 2c \quad \text{--- (3)}$$



Since $\vec{\nabla}\phi$ is parallel to z axis

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla}\phi|_p \cdot \hat{i} \\ \vec{\nabla}\phi|_p \cdot \hat{j} \end{aligned} \right\} = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla}\phi|_p \cdot \hat{k} = 64$$

$$4a + 3c = 0$$

$$4a - b = 0$$

$$2b - 2c = 64$$