Calc III Sections

Fall 2025

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Calc III-Week 10 (10/27-31)

Topics: (1) Divergence and Curl, (2) Double integrals.

Definition 0.1 (divergence). Let F be a vector field in \mathbb{R}^3 $F = (F_1, F_2, F_3)$, the divergence of F is the scalar field (assigns one number to an given point (x, y, z)),

$$\operatorname{div} F := \nabla \cdot F = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z}$$

More generally, if $F = (F_1, \dots, F_n)$ is a vector field on \mathbb{R}^n , its divergence is

$$\operatorname{div} F = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x_1} + \dots + \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_n}$$

Remark 1. We write the divergence as $\nabla \cdot F$ because

$$\nabla = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}\right)$$

and if $F = (F_1, ..., F_n)$,

$$\operatorname{div} F = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x_1} + \dots + \frac{\partial F_n}{\partial x_n} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}\right) \cdot (F_1, \dots, F_n) = \nabla \cdot F$$

Definition 0.2 (curl). Let F be a vector field in \mathbb{R}^3 , writing $F = (F_1, F_2, F_3)$, the **curl** of F is the vector field

$$\operatorname{curl} F := \nabla \times F = \det \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ F_1 & F_2 & F_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

If $\operatorname{curl} F = 0$, then we say the vector field is **irrotational**.

Proposition 0.1 (gradient is irrotational). Let $f \in C^2$, where $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}$, viewing ∇f as a vector field, then

$$\nabla \times (\nabla f) = 0$$

Proposition 0.2 (divergence of a curl vanishes). For any C^2 vector field F,

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times F) = 0$$

Proposition 0.3 (Fubini's Theorem). Let f be a continuous function on a rectangular domain $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$, then

$$\int_{a}^{b} \int_{c}^{d} f(x,y) dy dx = \int_{c}^{d} \int_{a}^{b} f(x,y) dx dy$$

Problem 0.1. Show that the vector field $V(x, y, z) = (x^2, -y, z)$ is not the curl of any vector field F. In other words, there is no vector field F such that

$$V = \operatorname{curl} F$$

Proof. By the above proposition, if there exists F such that

$$V = \operatorname{curl} F$$

then

$$\nabla \cdot V = 0$$

However,

$$\nabla \cdot V(x,y,z) = 2x \neq 0 \text{ if } x \neq 0$$

this is a contradiction, hence no such F exists.

Problem 0.2 (Marsden-Tromba, IV.4, 21). Let $F(x,y,z)=(x^2,x^2y,z+zx)$. Can there exist a function $f:\mathbb{R}^3\to\mathbb{R}$ such that $F=\nabla f$?

Proof. No. Suppose there exists such f, then the gradient must be irrotational. In other words, we must have

$$\nabla \times F = 0$$

Thus we compute the curl of F:

$$\nabla \times F = (-2yz, z, 0)$$

and it is not identically 0.

Problem 0.3. Change the order of integration to dydx for the following function:

$$\int_0^1 \int_{e^y}^e \frac{x}{\ln x} dx dy$$

Proof. It should be

$$\int_{1}^{e} \int_{0}^{\ln x} \frac{x}{\ln x} dy dx$$

Problem 0.4. Change the order of integrations for the following functions:

1.
$$\int_0^1 \int_x^1 f(x,y) dy dx$$

$$\int_0^1 \int_{-y}^{y^3} f(x,y) dx dy$$

3.
$$\int_0^3 \int_{2\pi}^6 f(x,y) dy dx$$

4.
$$\int_0^1 \int_{-\sqrt{y}}^{y^2} f(x,y) dx dy$$

5.
$$\int_0^8 \int_{\sqrt[3]{y}}^2 f(x,y) dx dy$$

6.
$$\int_0^1 \int_{\ln y}^1 f(x,y) dx dy$$

Proof. 1. It should be

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^y f(x,y) dx dy$$

2. It should be $\int_0^0 \int_0^1 dt$

$$\int_{-1}^{0} \int_{-x}^{1} f(x,y) dy dx + \int_{0}^{1} \int_{\sqrt{x}}^{1} f(x,y) dy dx$$

3. It should be

$$\int_0^6 \int_0^{\frac{y}{2}} f(x,y) dx dy$$

4. It should be

$$\int_0^1\int_{\sqrt{x}}^1f(x,y)dydx+\int_{-1}^0\int_{x^2}^1f(x,y)dydx$$

5. It should be

$$\int_0^2 \int_0^{x^3} f(x, y) dy dx$$

6. It should be

$$\int_{-\infty}^{0} \int_{0}^{e^{x}} f(x,y) dy dx + \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} f(x,y) dy dx$$