

Divergence and Stoke's theorem

Example: Find $\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds$, where $\vec{F} = (2x+3z)\hat{i} - (xz+y)\hat{j} + (y^2+2z)\hat{k}$

and S is the surface of the sphere having centre $(3, -1, 2)$ and radius 3.

Solⁿ: We know the divergence theorem,

$$\iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = \iiint_V (\nabla \cdot \vec{F}) \, dv \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$\text{Here, } \nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot [(2x+3z)\hat{i} - (xz+y)\hat{j} + (y^2+2z)\hat{k}]$$

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

$$= 2 - 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$\text{Now, from (1), } \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = \iiint_V 3 \, dv$$

$$= 3 \iiint_V dv = 3V, \text{ where } V \text{ is the volume}$$

enclosed by the surface S .

Again, V is the volume of a sphere of radius 3. Therefore,

$$V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 = \frac{4}{3} \pi (3)^3 = 36\pi.$$

$$\therefore \iint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = 3V = 3 \times 36\pi = 108\pi. \text{ (Ans).}$$

Example 2: Use the Stoke's theorem to evaluate

$\int_C [(x+2y)dx + (x-z)dy + (y-z)dz]$ where C is the boundary of the triangle with vertices $(2,0,0)$, $(0,3,0)$ and $(0,0,6)$ oriented in the anti-clockwise direction.

Solⁿ: Given,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_C [(x+2y)dx + (x-z)dy + (y-z)dz] \\ &= \int_C [(x+2y)\hat{i} + (x-z)\hat{j} + (y-z)\hat{k}] \cdot (\hat{i}dx + \hat{j}dy + \hat{k}dz) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \bar{F} = (x+2y)\hat{i} + (x-z)\hat{j} + (y-z)\hat{k}.$$

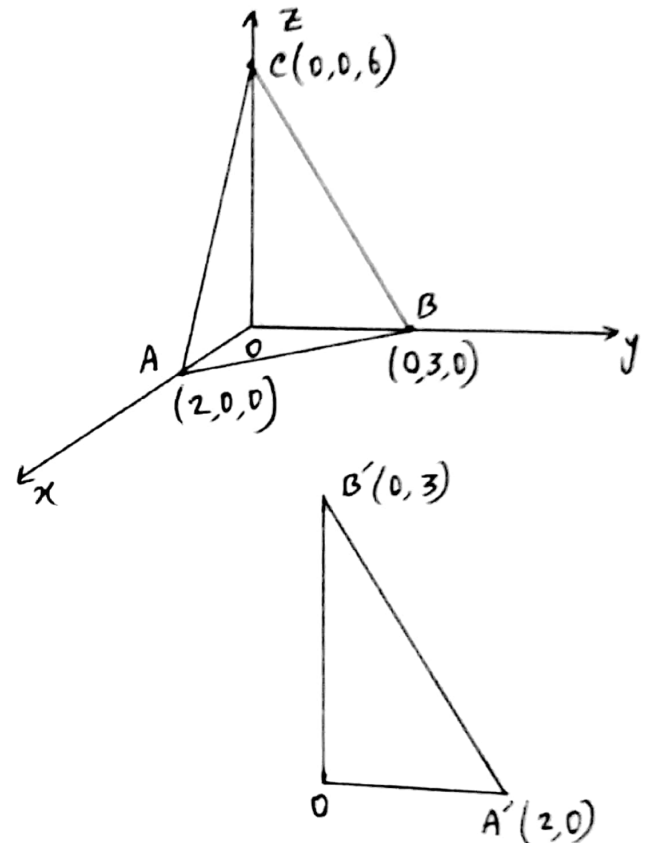
We know the Stoke's theorem,

$$\oint_C \bar{F} \cdot d\bar{r} = \iint_S \text{curl } \bar{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

$$\text{Now, curl } \bar{F} = \nabla \times \bar{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x+2y & x-z & y-z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \hat{i}(1+1) - \hat{j}(0-0) + \hat{k}(1-2) = 2\hat{i} - \hat{k}.$$

Hence, S is the surface of the plane $\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{3} + \frac{z}{6} = 1$ and \hat{n} is the normal to the plane ABC .



Again, normal vector $= \nabla \Phi$

$$= \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{3} + \frac{z}{6} - 1 \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \hat{i} + \frac{1}{3} \hat{j} + \frac{1}{6} \hat{k} = \frac{1}{6} (3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

$$\therefore \hat{n} = \frac{\frac{1}{6} (3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{36} (9+4+1)}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} (3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

$$\text{Now, } \text{curl } \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} = (2\hat{i} - \hat{k}) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} (3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} (6-1) = \frac{5}{\sqrt{14}}$$

Now, on applying Stokes's theorem,

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint_S \text{curl } \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds$$

$$= \iint_S \frac{5}{\sqrt{14}} \, ds$$

$$= \frac{5}{\sqrt{14}} \iint_R \frac{dx \, dy}{\hat{k} \cdot \hat{n}} \quad \left[\because ds = \frac{dx \cdot dy}{\hat{n} \cdot \hat{k}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{5}{\sqrt{14}} \iint_R \frac{dx \, dy}{\hat{k} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} (3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})}$$

$$= 5 \iint_R dx \cdot dy, \text{ where } R \text{ is the projection of } S \text{ on the } x-y \text{ plane, that is, triangle OAB.}$$

$$= 5 \times \text{Area of triangle OAB}$$

$$= 5 \times \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 3 = 15. \text{ (Ans.)}$$

Exercise : Example 87 (Page. 438)