

1. Find the volume of the tetrahedron whose vertices are  $(0, 0, 0)$ ,  $(a, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, b, 0)$ ,  $(0, 0, c)$ .

**soln**

Let us denote the volume of the tetrahedron as  $V$ . The tetrahedron is bounded by the four faces  $x = 0, y = 0, z = 0$  and  $x/a + y/b + z/c = 1$ . The volume will be given by the tripple integral  $V = \int \int \int dx dy dz$ . We first do the  $z$  integral at a fixed  $(x, y)$ .  $z$  runs from  $z = 0$  upto the plane  $x/a + y/b + z/c = 1$  which is characterized by the value  $z = c(1 - x/a - y/b)$ .

$$\therefore V = \int \int \int_0^{c(1-x/a-y/b)} dz dx dy = \int \int c \left(1 - \frac{x}{a} - \frac{y}{b}\right) dx dy$$

Now we have a double integral on the  $xy$  plane. The region of the integration is a triangle on the plane bounded by the lines  $x = 0, y = 0$  and  $x/a + y/b = 1$ .

We will first do the  $y$  integral at a fixed  $x$ .  $y$  runs from  $y = 0$  upto the line  $x/a + y/b = 1$  which is characterized by the value  $y = b(1 - x/a)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore V &= \int \int_0^{b(1-x/a)} c \left(1 - \frac{x}{a} - \frac{y}{b}\right) dy dx \\ &= \int \left[ c \left(1 - \frac{x}{a}\right) c \left(1 - \frac{x}{a}\right) - \frac{c}{2b} b^2 \left(1 - \frac{x}{a}\right)^2 \right] dx \end{aligned}$$

Now we are left with an ordinary integral over  $x$  and  $x$  runs from  $x = 0$  to  $x = a$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \int_0^a \frac{bc}{2} \left(1 - \frac{x}{a}\right)^2 dx \\ &= \frac{abc}{6} \end{aligned}$$

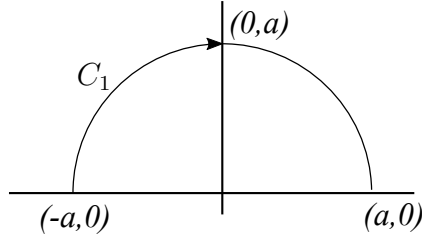
Volume of the tetrahedron is one-sixth the volume of the rectangular parallelopiped with sides  $a, b, c$ .

2. Evaluate  $\int_P^Q \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l}$  for  $\vec{A} = y\hat{i} - x\hat{j}$  along the following arcs of a circle of radius  $a$ :  $P \equiv (-a, 0)$ ;  $Q \equiv (a, 0)$ .

(a)  $(-a, 0) \rightarrow (0, a) \rightarrow (a, 0)$

**soln**

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{C_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} &= \int_{C_1} (y\hat{i} - x\hat{j}) \cdot (dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}) \\ &= \int_{C_1} ydx - xdy \end{aligned}$$



Let  $x = a \cos \theta$ ,  $y = a \sin \theta$ .

Then  $dx = -a \sin \theta d\theta$ ,  $dy = a \cos \theta d\theta$ . Over the curve  $C_1$   $\theta$  goes from  $\pi$  to  $0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_{C_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} &= \int_{\pi}^0 -a^2 d\theta \\ &= \pi a^2 \end{aligned}$$

Along the curve  $C_1$   $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ .

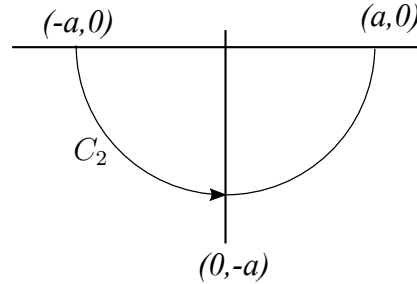
$$\therefore 2x dx + 2y dy = 0.$$

$$\therefore dy = -\frac{x}{y} dx$$

(b)  $(-a, 0) \rightarrow (0, -a) \rightarrow (a, 0)$

**soln**

**soln**



Along the lower curve we follow the same procedure. Here the only change will be that  $\theta$  goes from  $\pi$  to  $2\pi$ . This gives

$$\int_{C_2} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} = -\pi a^2$$

(c) a loop, forward along (a) and backward along (b)

**soln:**

When we go backward along (b)  $\theta$  goes from  $2\pi$  to  $\pi$  or from  $0$  to  $-\pi$ . This will make the value of the integral as  $\pi a^2$ . So the total integral when we make one complete circle clockwise will be

$$\int_{C_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} - \int_{C_2} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{l} = \pi a^2 + \pi a^2 = 2\pi a^2$$

(d) Let  $I$  be the value of the loop integral evaluated in (c). Verify that at the origin

$$|\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}| = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} I/(\pi a^2)$$

**soln**

$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = \hat{k}(-1 - 1) = -2\hat{k}$  which is constant everywhere. So  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} = -2\hat{k}$  at the origin. We have  $I = 2\pi a^2$ .

$$\therefore \frac{I}{\pi a^2} = 2.$$

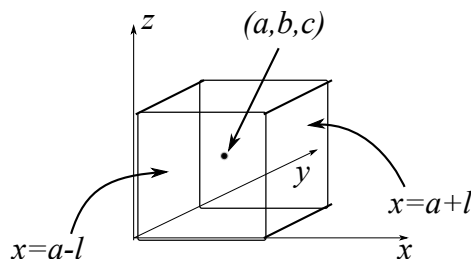
$\therefore \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} I/(\pi a^2) = 2$  which is the magnitude of  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$  at the origin.

3. Consider  $\vec{A} = x^2\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$

(a) Evaluate  $\oint_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a}$  where  $S$  is a cubical surface given by the planes  $x = a \pm l$ ;  $y = b \pm l$ ;  $z = c \pm l$ .

**soln:**

The surface of the cube consists of 6 planes. Let  $S_1$  be the surface  $x = a + l$ .



Over  $S_1$ ,  $\vec{A} = (a + l)^2\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$  and  $d\vec{a} = \hat{i}dydz$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_{S_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a} &= \int_{c-l}^{c+l} \int_{b-l}^{b+l} (a + l)^2 dydz \\ &= 4l^2(a + l)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Over the surface  $S_2$ :  $x = a - l$ ,  
 $\vec{A} = (a - l)^2\hat{i} + y^2\hat{j} + z^2\hat{k}$  and  $d\vec{a} = -\hat{i}dydz$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_{S_2} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a} &= - \int_{c-l}^{c+l} \int_{b-l}^{b+l} (a - l)^2 dydz \\ &= -4l^2(a - l)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  net flux from  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  is  $4l^2(a + l)^2 - (a - l)^2 = 16al^3$ .

Similarly from the other two pair of surfaces we will have  $16bl^3$  and  $16al^3$ .

So the total flux of the vector field  $\vec{A}$  through the given cube is  $16l^3(a + b + c)$ .

(b) Verify that at the point  $(a, b, c)$ ,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \lim_{l \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{8l^3} \oint_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a}$$

**soln:**

The volume of the cube is  $8l^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \lim_{l \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{V} \oint_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a} &= \lim_{l \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{8l^3} 16l^3(a+b+c) \\ &= 2(a+b+c)\end{aligned}$$

This is same as the value of  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}$  at  $(a, b, c)$ .

This limit will be true for volume of any shape enclosing the point  $(a, b, c)$ .

4. Let  $\vec{A} = \hat{r}$ . Evaluate  $\int_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a}$  over the surface of a sphere given by the equation  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$ .

**soln:**

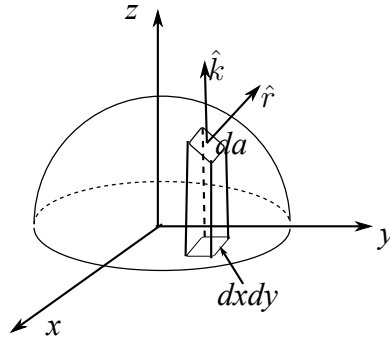
The normal to the surface of the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$  is along  $\hat{r}$ . So  $d\vec{a} = \hat{r} da$ .

$$\therefore \int_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a} = \int_S \hat{r} \cdot \hat{r} da = \int_S da$$

This integral gives the surface area of the sphere. We will find the surface area of the upper hemisphere as shown in the figure. The element of area  $da$  on the surface  $S$  has a projection  $dydx$  on the  $xy$  plane as shown in the figure. The surface element  $dx dy$  is along  $\hat{k}$ . So we have the following relation between  $da$  and  $dx dy$ :

$$dx dy = da \hat{r} \cdot \hat{k}$$

The sphere cuts the  $xy$  plane along a circle of radius  $a$  which forms the region of our



integration over  $x$  and  $y$ . So over the upper hemisphere the integral becomes

$$\int_{\text{hemisphere}} da = \int_{\text{hemisphere}} \frac{dx dy}{\hat{r} \cdot \hat{k}}$$

Over the surface of the sphere  $\hat{r} = \frac{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}}{a}$ . So  $\hat{r} \cdot \hat{k} = z/a$ . So the above integral is

$$\int_{\text{hemisphere}} \frac{a}{z} dx dy$$

Over this hemisphere  $z = \sqrt{a^2 - x^2 - y^2}$ . For a given value of  $y$ ,  $x$  runs from  $-\sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$  to  $\sqrt{a^2 - y^2}$ . Putting all these together we have

$$\int_{\text{hemisphere}} da = \int_{-a}^a \int_{-\sqrt{a^2 - y^2}}^{\sqrt{a^2 - y^2}} \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2 - y^2}} dx dy$$

Substituting  $x = \sqrt{a^2 - y^2} \sin \theta$  we get

$$\int_{\text{hemisphere}} da = a \int_{-a}^a \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} d\theta dy = a \int_{-a}^a \pi dy = 2\pi a^2$$

The lower hemisphere will also contribute  $2\pi a^2$  to the integral. Hence

$$\int_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{a} = 4\pi a^2$$

which is the surface area of the sphere.