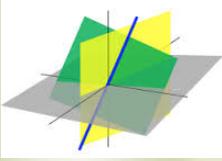
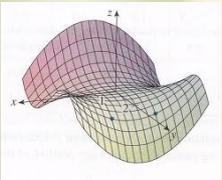


Vector Fields

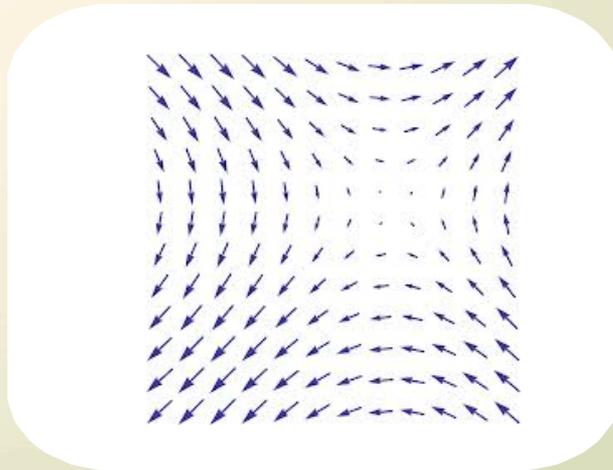


$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h, y) - f(x, y)}{h}$$

$$f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \int_0^{2y} xy \, dx \, dy &= \int_0^1 \left[\frac{x^2}{2} y \right]_{x=0}^{x=2y} dy \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{(2y)^2}{2} y \, dy = \int_0^1 2y^3 \, dy \\ &= \left[\frac{y^4}{2} \right]_{y=0}^{y=1} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$



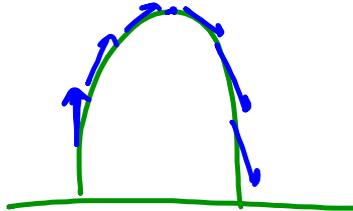
A Vector Field on a domain in space or in the plane is a function that assigns a vector to each point in the space.

input: pt (x, y, z) output: vector

- EX 1 a) Attach a projectile's velocity vector to each point of its trajectory.

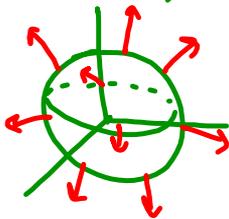
Domain: trajectory

Range: velocity field



- b) Attach the gradient vector of a function to each point in the function's domain.

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2 \text{ (sphere)} \quad f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - a^2 = 0$$



$$\nabla f = \langle 2x, 2y, 2z \rangle$$

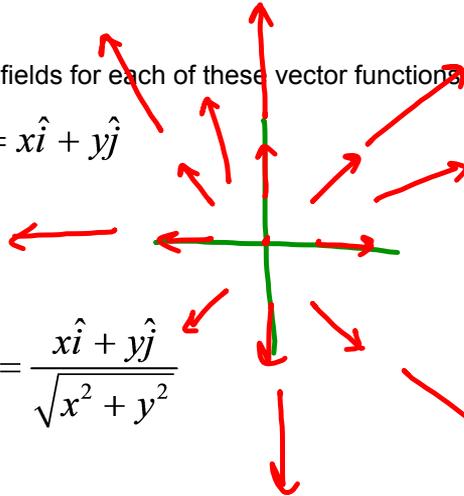
(pts away from origin)

- c) Attach a velocity vector to each point of a 3-D fluid flow.

EX 2 Plot the vector fields for each of these vector functions

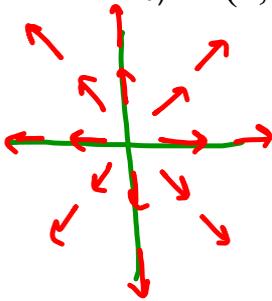
a) $\vec{F}(x, y) = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$

(radial vector field)



x	y	\vec{F}
0	0	$\langle 0, 0 \rangle = \vec{0}$
1	0	\hat{i}
0	1	\hat{j}
1	1	$\hat{i} + \hat{j}$
2	2	$2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j}$

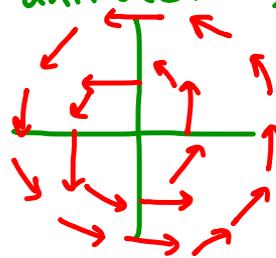
b) $\vec{F}(x, y) = \frac{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$



c) $\vec{F}(x, y) = \frac{-y\hat{i} + x\hat{j}}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$

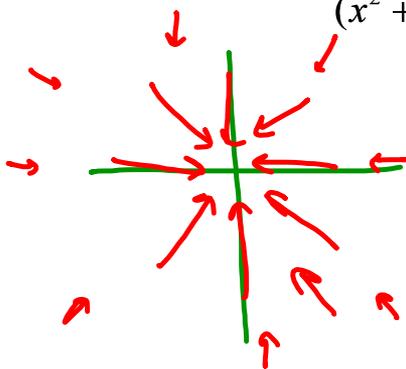
(called a circular vector field)

(all unit vectors)



x	y	\vec{F}
0	1	$-\hat{i}$
1	0	\hat{j}
-1	0	$-\hat{i}$
0	-1	\hat{j}

d) $\vec{F}(x, y) = \frac{-(x\hat{i} + y\hat{j})}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}}$



(as we move away from the origin, vectors get smaller)
(radial vector field)

Scalar field

$$f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow f(x, y, z)$$

input: (x, y, z) pt
output: a number

Vector field

$$\vec{F}: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

\vec{F} maps \mathbb{R}^3 to \mathbb{R}^3

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow \langle M, N, P \rangle$$

input: (x, y, z) pt
output: 3-d vector

where $M = M(x, y, z)$
 $N = N(x, y, z)$
 $P = P(x, y, z)$

Gradient of scalar field

input: 3-variable fn
output: 3-d vector

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

Divergence of vector field

input: vector fn
output: scalar

$$\text{div}(\vec{F})$$
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} \quad (\text{scalar})$$

$$\vec{F} = M\hat{i} + N\hat{j} + P\hat{k}$$

Curl of vector field

(∇ called nabla)

$$\text{curl } \vec{F} = \nabla \times \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ M & N & P \end{vmatrix} \quad (\text{operator})$$

input: vector field
output: vector field

$$= \hat{i} \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial z} \right) - \hat{j} \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial z} \right) + \hat{k} \left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} \right)$$

Think of ∇ as a vector-valued operator.

Then $\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{k}$

remember:

$$\nabla f(x,y,z) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

$$\text{div } \vec{F} = \nabla \cdot \vec{F}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{k} \right) \cdot (M\hat{i} + N\hat{j} + P\hat{k})$$

$$= \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z}$$

$$\vec{F} = M\hat{i} + N\hat{j} + P\hat{k},$$

$$M = M(x,y,z)$$

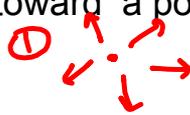
$$N = N(x,y,z)$$

$$P = P(x,y,z)$$

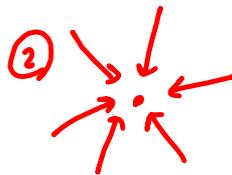
$$\text{curl } \vec{F} = \nabla \times \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ M & N & P \end{vmatrix}$$

Note: If \vec{F} is a velocity field for a fluid, then $\text{div } \vec{F}$ measures the tendency to diverge away from/toward a point.

① $\text{div } \vec{F} > 0$ away

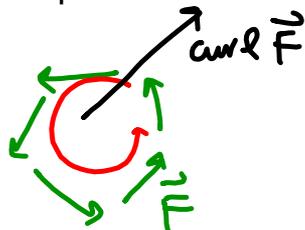


② $\text{div } \vec{F} < 0$ toward



$\text{curl } \vec{F}$ - the direction about which the fluid rotates most rapidly.

$\|\text{curl } \vec{F}\|$ = speed of this rotation



(measures the tendency for vector field to rotate about a given pt)

EX 3 Let $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = e^x \cos y \hat{i} + e^x \sin y \hat{j} + z \hat{k}$

find

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{F}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \text{div } \vec{F} &= \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{k} \right) \cdot (e^x \cos y \hat{i} \\ &\quad + e^x \sin y \hat{j} + z \hat{k}) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(e^x \cos y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(e^x \sin y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(z) \\ &= e^x \cos y + e^x \cos y + 1 \\ &= 2e^x \cos y + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} =$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ e^x \cos y & e^x \sin y & z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \hat{i} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(e^x \sin y) \right) - \hat{j} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(e^x \cos y) \right) \\ &\quad + \hat{k} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(e^x \sin y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(e^x \cos y) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \hat{i} (0) - \hat{j} (0) + \hat{k} (e^x \sin y + e^x \sin y)$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} = 2e^x \sin y \hat{k}$$

EX 4 Show that

assuming that

a) $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{F}) = 0$ for any $\vec{F}(x,y,z) = M(x,y,z)\hat{i} + N(x,y,z)\hat{j} + P(x,y,z)\hat{k}$

b) $\nabla \times (\nabla f) = \vec{0}$ for any $f(x,y,z)$

(a) $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{F}) = \text{div}(\text{curl } \vec{F}) = 0$

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} = \hat{i} \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial z} \right) - \hat{j} \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial z} \right) + \hat{k} \left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{F}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x \partial y} - \frac{\partial^2 N}{\partial x \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial y \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial y \partial z} + \frac{\partial^2 N}{\partial z \partial x} - \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial z \partial y}$$

$$= 0 \quad (\text{as long as } \vec{F} \text{ is "nice"})$$

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial y \partial x}$$

(b) given fn $f(x,y,z)$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla f) = \text{curl}(\nabla f) = \vec{0} \quad (\text{claim})$$

$$\nabla f = f_x \hat{i} + f_y \hat{j} + f_z \hat{k}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla f) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ f_x & f_y & f_z \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i}(f_{zy} - f_{yz}) - \hat{j}(f_{zx} - f_{xz}) + \hat{k}(f_{yx} - f_{xy}) = \vec{0}$$

A vector field is called conservative if

$$\vec{F}(x, y, z) = \nabla f(x, y, z) \quad \text{for some } f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

then f is called the potential function.

(also known as
gradient vector
field)

↳ f is a function
that maps from
 (x, y, z) to a #

EX 5 Let $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = \frac{-c\vec{r}}{\|\vec{r}\|^3}$

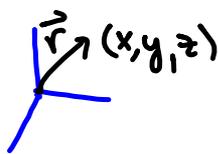
$$f(x, y, z) = \frac{c}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} = c(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2}$$

show that

$$\vec{F} = \nabla f$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla f &= f_x \hat{i} + f_y \hat{j} + f_z \hat{k} = \frac{1}{2} c (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-3/2} [2x \hat{i} + 2y \hat{j} \\ &\quad + 2z \hat{k}] \\ &= \frac{-c}{\sqrt{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^3}} (x \hat{i} + y \hat{j} + z \hat{k}) \end{aligned}$$

note: $\vec{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle = x \hat{i} + y \hat{j} + z \hat{k}$



$$\|\vec{r}\| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\nabla f = \frac{-c(\vec{r})}{\|\vec{r}\|^3} = \vec{F} \quad \checkmark$$