

VECTOR DIFFERENTIATION

Vector function: Let s be the set of real numbers for scalar $t \in s$, if there exists a unique vector \vec{f} then \vec{f} is said to be a vector function.

The vector function of a scalar variable 't' denoted by $\vec{f}(t)$ which can be expressed in terms of mutually orthogonal unit vectors $\vec{i}, \vec{j}, \vec{k}$ as

$$\vec{f}(t) = f_1(t)\vec{i} + f_2(t)\vec{j} + f_3(t)\vec{k}$$

Derivative of a vector function:

If $\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \frac{\vec{f}(t) - \vec{f}(a)}{t - a}$, $t \neq a$ and $a \in I$ exists then the limit is called as derivative of \vec{f} at $t = a$ and is denoted by $\left(\frac{d\vec{f}}{dt}\right)_{t=a}$ or $f'(a)$

Properties:

If \vec{A} and \vec{B} are differentiable vector functions of a scalar variable t , then

- i) $\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{A} \pm \vec{B}) = \frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} \pm \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt}$
- ii) $\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}) = \frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} \cdot \vec{B} \pm \vec{A} \cdot \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt}$
- iii) $\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt}$
- iv) $\frac{d}{dt}(\phi \vec{A}) = \frac{d\phi}{dt} \vec{A} + \phi \frac{d\vec{A}}{dt}$
- v) If \vec{c} is any constant vector, then $\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{c}) = 0$

Note: If $\vec{f} = f_1(t)\vec{i} + f_2(t)\vec{j} + f_3(t)\vec{k}$ then

$$\frac{d\vec{f}}{dt} = \vec{i} \frac{df_1}{dt} + \vec{j} \frac{df_2}{dt} + \vec{k} \frac{df_3}{dt}$$

Partial derivative:

If \vec{f} is a vector depending on more than one similar variable then the partial derivative of \vec{f} w.r.t x is defined as

$$\frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{f}(x + \Delta x, y, z) - \vec{f}(x, y, z)}{\Delta x}$$

Similarly $\frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial y} = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{f}(x, y + \Delta y, z) - \vec{f}(x, y, z)}{\Delta y}$

Properties:

If \bar{f} and \bar{g} are vector functions, ϕ is a scalar function of several variables then

- i) $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\bar{f} \pm \bar{g}) = \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial t} \pm \frac{\partial \bar{g}}{\partial t}$
- ii) $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\bar{f} \cdot \bar{g}) = \bar{f} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{g}}{\partial t} + \bar{g} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial t}$
- iii) $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\bar{f} \times \bar{g}) = \bar{f} \times \frac{\partial \bar{g}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial t} \times \bar{g}$
- iv) $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\phi \bar{f}) = \phi \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \bar{f}$
- v) If $\bar{f} = f_1 \bar{i} + f_2 \bar{j} + f_3 \bar{k}$ then
$$\frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial t} \bar{i} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial t} \bar{j} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial t} \bar{k}$$

Vector Differential Equation:

The vector differential operator $\nabla(\text{del})$ is defined as

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

Gradient: Let $\phi(x, y, z)$ be a scalar point function then the vector function $\bar{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$ is called gradient of a function and is denoted by $\nabla \phi$ or $\text{grad} \phi$

Directional derivative:

Let $\phi(x, y, z)$ be a scalar point function, the function defined on the direction of a vector then the directional derivative can be defined as $\nabla \phi \cdot \bar{e}$

where \bar{e} is the unit normal vector.

Unit normal vector:

If $\bar{f} = f_1 \bar{i} + f_2 \bar{j} + f_3 \bar{k}$ then the unit normal vector can be defined as

$$\bar{e} = \frac{\bar{f}}{|\bar{f}|}$$

Problems

1. Find grad ϕ when e

i) $\phi = x^3 + y^3 + 3xyz$ at (1,1,-2)

ii) $\phi = x^2y + y^2x + z$ at (1,1,1)

Sol: i) Given $\phi = x^3 + y^3 + 3xyz$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Grad}\phi &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \\ &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^3 + y^3 + 3xyz) + \bar{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^3 + y^3 + 3xyz) + \\ &\quad \bar{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (x^3 + y^3 + 3xyz) \\ &= \bar{i}(3x^2 + 3yz) + \bar{j}(3y^2 + 3xz) + \bar{k}(3xy) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Grad}\phi_{(1,1,-2)} &= \bar{i}(3(1^2) + 3(1)(-2)) + \bar{j}(3(1^2) + 3(1)(-2)) + \\ &\quad \bar{k}(3(1)(1)) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \bar{i}(3 - 6) + \bar{j}(3 - 6) + 3\bar{k}$$

$$\text{Grad}\phi = -3\bar{i} - 3\bar{j} + 3\bar{k}$$

ii) Given $\phi = x^2y + y^2x + z$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grad}\phi &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \\ &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2y + y^2x + z) + \bar{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2y + y^2x + z) + \bar{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (x^2y + \\ &\quad y^2x + z) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \bar{i}(2xy + y^2) + \bar{j}(x^2 + 2xy) + \bar{k}(1)$$

$$\text{Grad}\phi_{(1,1,1)} = \bar{i}(2 + 1) + \bar{j}(2 + 1) + \bar{k}$$

$$= 3\bar{i} + 3\bar{j} + \bar{k}$$

2. Find $\nabla\phi$, where $\phi = \log(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$

Sol: Given $\phi = \log(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla\phi &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \\ &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\log(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)) + \bar{j} (\log(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)) + \\ &\quad \bar{k} (\log(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \bar{i} \frac{1}{x^2+y^2+z^2} (2x) + \bar{j} \frac{1}{x^2+y^2+z^2} (2y) + \bar{k} \frac{1}{x^2+y^2+z^2} (2z)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x^2+y^2+z^2} (2x\bar{i} + 2y\bar{j} + 2z\bar{k})$$

3. Prove that $\nabla(r^n) = nr^{n-2}\bar{r}$

Sol: Let $\bar{r} = x\bar{i} + y\bar{j} + z\bar{k}$

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

$$r = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{1/2}$$

diff w.r.t x partially we get

$$2r \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = 2x$$

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}$$

Similarly, $\frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{r}$

We have, $\nabla r^n = \bar{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (r^n) + \bar{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (r^n) + \bar{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (r^n)$

$$= \sum \bar{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (r^n)$$

$$= \sum \bar{i} n \cdot r^{n-1} \cdot \frac{\partial r}{\partial x}$$

$$= \sum \bar{i} n \cdot r^{n-1} \frac{x}{r}$$

$$= \sum \bar{i} n \cdot r^{n-2} x$$

$$= n \cdot r^{n-2} \sum x\bar{i}$$

$$= n \cdot r^{n-2} (x\bar{i} + y\bar{j} + z\bar{k})$$

$$= n \cdot r^{n-2} \bar{r}$$

4. If $a=x+y+z, b=x^2 + y^2 + z^2, c = xy + yz + zx$ then prove that $[\text{grad } a, \text{grad } b, \text{grad } c] = 0$

Sol: Given $a=x+y+z \quad b=x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \quad c = xy + yz + zx$

$$\text{grad } a = \bar{i} + \bar{j} + \bar{k} \quad \text{grad } b = 2x\bar{i} + 2y\bar{j} + 2z\bar{k}$$

$$c = xy + yz + zx$$

$$= (y + z)\bar{i} + (z + x)\bar{j} + (x + y)\bar{k}$$

$$\text{then } [\text{grad } a, \text{grad } b, \text{grad } c] = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2x & 2y & 2z \\ y + z & x + z & x + y \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x & y & z \\ y + z & x + z & x + y \end{vmatrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + R_2$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x & y & z \\ x + y + z & x + y + z & x + y + z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (x + y + z) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x & y & z \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 0$$

5. Find the directional derivative of $\phi = x^2yz + 4xz^2$ at $(1, -2, -1)$ in the direction of a vector $2\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 2\bar{k}$

Sol: Given $\phi = x^2yz + 4xz^2$

$$\text{Grad}\phi = \bar{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$= \bar{i}(2xyz + 4z^2) + \bar{j}(x^2z) + \bar{k}(x^2y + 8xz)$$

$$\text{grad}\phi_{(1, -2, -1)} = \bar{i}(2(1)(-2)(-1) + 4(1^2)) + \bar{j}(1(-1)) + \bar{k}((1^2)(-2) + 8(-1)(1))$$

$$= 8\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 10\bar{k}$$

and also the given vector $\bar{f} = 2\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 2\bar{k}$

$$\text{unit normal vector } \bar{e} = \frac{\bar{f}}{|\bar{f}|} = \frac{2\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 2\bar{k}}{\sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2 + (-2)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{2\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 2\bar{k}}{\sqrt{9}} = \frac{2\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 2\bar{k}}{3}$$

The required directional derivative along the vector = $\nabla\phi \cdot \bar{e}$

$$= (8\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 10\bar{k}) \cdot \left(\frac{2\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 2\bar{k}}{3}\right)$$

$$= \frac{37}{3}$$

6. Find the directional derivative of $\phi = xy + yz + zx$ at A in the directional of \overline{AB} where A(1,2,-1) and B(1,2,3)

Sol: Given $\phi = xy + yz + zx$

The position vectors of A and B w.r.t origin $\overline{OA} = \bar{i} + 2\bar{j} - \bar{k}$ and $\overline{OB} = \bar{i} + 2\bar{j} + 3\bar{k}$

$$\overline{AB} = \overline{OB} - \overline{OA}$$

$$= (\bar{i} + 2\bar{j} + 3\bar{k}) - (\bar{i} + 2\bar{j} - \bar{k})$$

$$= 4\bar{k}$$

Let \bar{e} be the unit normal vector

$$\bar{e} = \frac{\overline{AB}}{|\overline{AB}|} = \frac{4\bar{k}}{4} = \bar{k}$$

and also given $\phi = xy + yz + zx$ at A(1,2,-1)

$$\text{grad}\phi = \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$= \bar{i}(y+z) + \bar{j}(x+z) + \bar{k}(x+y)$$

$$\text{grad}\phi_{(1,2,-1)} = \bar{i}(2-1) + \bar{j}(1-1) + \bar{k}(1+2)$$

$$\nabla\phi = \bar{i} + 3\bar{k}$$

Directional derivative of ϕ at A in the direction of \overline{AB} is $\nabla\phi \cdot \bar{e}$

$$= (\bar{i} + 3\bar{k}) \cdot \bar{k} = 3$$

7. Find the directional derivative of the function $\phi = xy^2 + yz^3$ at the point $(2, -1, 1)$ in the direction of the normal to the surface $x \log z - y^2 + 4 = 0$ at $(-1, 2, 1)$

Sol: Given $\phi = xy^2 + yz^3$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\phi &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \\ &= (y^2)\bar{i} + (2xy + z^3)\bar{j} + (3yz^2)\bar{k}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\phi_{(2,-1,1)} &= \bar{i} + (2(2)(-1) + 1^3)\bar{j} + (3(-1)(1))\bar{k} \\ &= \bar{i} - 3\bar{j} - 3\bar{k}\end{aligned}$$

and also $s = x \log z - y^2 + 4$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla s &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial s}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial s}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial s}{\partial z} \\ &= \log z \bar{i} - 2y\bar{j} + \frac{x}{z}\bar{k}\end{aligned}$$

$$(\nabla s)_{(-1,2,1)} = -4\bar{j} - \bar{k}$$

$$\bar{e} = \frac{\nabla s}{|\nabla s|} = \frac{-4\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{|-4\bar{j} - \bar{k}|} = \frac{-4\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{\sqrt{16+1}} = \frac{-4\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{\sqrt{17}}$$

Directional derivative of ϕ is $\nabla\phi \cdot \bar{e}$

$$\begin{aligned}&= (\bar{i} - 3\bar{j} - 3\bar{k}) \cdot \left(\frac{-4\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{\sqrt{17}} \right) \\ &= \frac{12+3}{\sqrt{17}} = \frac{15}{\sqrt{17}}\end{aligned}$$

Angle between two surfaces:

Let p be a point of intersection to the level surfaces $f(x,y,z)=0$, $s(x,y,z)=0$ then the angle between the normal to the surfaces $f(x,y,z)=0$, $s(x,y,z)=0$ at p is called the angle between surfaces at p .

Note: The vectors \bar{n}_1 and \bar{n}_2 are along the normal to the two surfaces at the point p , then the angle between two surfaces is $\cos\theta = \frac{\bar{n}_1 \cdot \bar{n}_2}{|\bar{n}_1| |\bar{n}_2|}$

1. Find the angle between the surfaces $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 9$ and $\bar{z} = x^2 + y^2 - 3$ at the point $(2, -1, 2)$

Sol: Let $\phi_1 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 9 = 0$

$\phi_2 = x^2 + y^2 - 3 = 0$ be two surfaces

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\phi_1 &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi_1}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi_1}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi_1}{\partial z} \\ &= 2x\bar{i} + 2y\bar{j} - 2z\bar{k}\end{aligned}$$

$$(\nabla\phi_1)_{(2,-1,2)} = 4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} + 4\bar{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla\phi_2 &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi_2}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi_2}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi_2}{\partial z} \\ &= 2x\bar{i} + 2y\bar{j} - \bar{k}\end{aligned}$$

$$(\nabla\phi_2)_{(2,-1,2)} = 4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} - \bar{k}$$

then the unit normal vectors are

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{n}_1 &= \frac{\nabla\phi_1}{|\nabla\phi_1|} = \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} + 4\bar{k}}{\sqrt{4^2 + 2^2 + 4^2}} = \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} + 4\bar{k}}{\sqrt{36}} \\ &= \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} + 4\bar{k}}{6}\end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{n}_2 = \frac{\nabla\phi_2}{|\nabla\phi_2|} = \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{\sqrt{4^2 + 2^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{\sqrt{21}}$$

Let θ be the angle between two surfaces then $\cos\theta = \frac{\bar{n}_1 \cdot \bar{n}_2}{|\bar{n}_1| |\bar{n}_2|}$

$$\begin{aligned}&= \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} + 4\bar{k}}{6} \cdot \frac{4\bar{i} - 2\bar{j} - \bar{k}}{\sqrt{21}} \\ &= \frac{16 + 4 - 4}{6\sqrt{21}} \\ &= \frac{16}{6\sqrt{21}} \\ &= \frac{8}{3\sqrt{21}}\end{aligned}$$

2. Find the angle between the normal to the surface $xy = z^2$ at the points $(4,1,2)$ and $(3,3,-3)$

Sol: Given $\phi = xy - z^2 = 0$

$$\nabla\phi = \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla\phi = y\bar{i} + x\bar{j} - 2z\bar{k}$$

$$\bar{n}_1 = (\nabla\phi)_{(4,1,2)} = \bar{i} + 4\bar{j} - 4\bar{k}$$

$$\bar{n}_2 = (\nabla\phi)_{(3,3,-3)} = 3\bar{i} + 3\bar{j} + 6\bar{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Angle between two surfaces is } \cos\theta &= \frac{\bar{n}_1 \cdot \bar{n}_2}{|\bar{n}_1| |\bar{n}_2|} \\ &= \frac{(\bar{i} + 4\bar{j} - 4\bar{k}) \cdot (3\bar{i} + 3\bar{j} + 6\bar{k})}{\sqrt{1^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2 + 6^2}} \\ &= \frac{3 + 12 - 24}{\sqrt{33} \sqrt{54}} \\ &= \frac{-9}{\sqrt{33} \sqrt{54}} \end{aligned}$$

3. Find the maximum value of the directional derivative of $\phi = 2x^2 - y - z^4$ at $(2,-1,1)$

Sol: Given $\phi = 2x^2 - y - z^4$

$$\nabla\phi = \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$= 4x\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 4z^3\bar{k}$$

$$(\nabla\phi)_{(2,-1,1)} = 8\bar{i} - \bar{j} - 4\bar{k}$$

Maximum value of the directional derivative value in $|\nabla\phi|$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sqrt{8^2 + (-1)^2 + (-4)^2} \\ &= 9 \end{aligned}$$

Divergence of a vector:

If \vec{f} is a continuously differentiable vector point function then $\vec{i} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$ is called the divergence of a vector \vec{f} and it is denoted by

$$\nabla \vec{f} = \vec{i} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$$

Note: If $\vec{f} = f_1 \vec{i} + f_2 \vec{j} + f_3 \vec{k}$ then

$$\text{div } \vec{f} \text{ or } \nabla \cdot \vec{f} = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z}$$

If $\text{div } \vec{f} = 0$ then \vec{f} is said to be solenoidal vector.

1. Find $\text{div } \vec{f}$ where $\vec{f} = x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sol: } \text{div } \vec{f} &= \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(z) \\ &= 1 + 1 + 1 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{div } \vec{f} = 3$$

2. Find $\text{div } \vec{f}$, where $\vec{f} = \text{grad}(x^3 + y^3 + z^3 - 3xyz)$

Sol: Given $\vec{f} = \text{grad}(x^3 + y^3 + z^3 - 3xyz)$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{div } \vec{f} &= \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(3x^2 - 3yz) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(3y^2 - 3xz) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(3z^2 - 3xy) \\ &= 6x + 6y + 6z \end{aligned}$$

3. Show that $3y^4 z^2 \vec{i} + z^3 x^2 \vec{j} - 3x^2 y^2 \vec{k}$ is solenoidal

Sol: Given $\vec{f} = 3y^4z^2\vec{i} + z^3x^2\vec{j} - 3x^2y^2\vec{k}$

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{div} \vec{f} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(3y^4z^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(z^3x^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(-3x^2y^2) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \operatorname{div} \vec{f} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{f}$ is said to be solenoid vector

4. Show that $\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$ is solenoidal

Sol: Let $\vec{r} = x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k}$

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

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$\text{then } \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{r}$$

$$\text{Given } \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} = \frac{x}{r^3}\vec{i} + \frac{y}{r^3}\vec{j} + \frac{z}{r^3}\vec{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{div} \left(\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} \right) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x}{r^3} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{y}{r^3} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{z}{r^3} \right) \\ &= \sum \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x}{r^3} \right) \\ &= \sum \left[\frac{r^3 - 3r^2 \left(\frac{x}{r} \right) x}{r^6} \right] \\ &= \sum \frac{r^3 - 3x^2r}{r^6} \\ &= \frac{1}{r^6} [r^3 - 3rx^2 + r^3 - 3ry^2 + r^3 - 3rz^2] \\ &= \frac{1}{r^6} [3r^3 - 3r(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)] \\ &= \frac{1}{r^6} [3r^3 - 3r^3] \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$ is solenoidal

Curl of a vector:

If \vec{f} is continuously differentiable vector point function then $\vec{i} X \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} + \vec{j} X \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial y} + \vec{k} X \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial z}$ is called curl of \vec{f} and it is denoted by $\nabla \times \vec{f}$ or $\text{curl } \vec{f}$

$$\text{i.e } \text{curl } \vec{f} = \vec{i} X \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} + \vec{j} X \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial y} + \vec{k} X \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial z} \quad \text{or}$$

$$\text{curl } \vec{f} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ f_1 & f_2 & f_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

If $\text{curl } \vec{f} = 0$ then \vec{f} is said to be irrotational vector

If \vec{f} is irrotational, there will exist a scalar function $\phi(x, y, z)$ such that, $\vec{f} = \text{grad } \phi$ and this ϕ is called a scalar potential of \vec{f}

1. If $\vec{f} = xy^2\vec{i} + 2x^2yz\vec{j} - 3yz^2\vec{k}$ find $\text{curl } \vec{f}$ at A(1,-1,1)

Sol: Given $\vec{f} = xy^2\vec{i} + 2x^2yz\vec{j} - 3yz^2\vec{k}$

$$\text{curl } \vec{f} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ f_1 & f_2 & f_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ xy^2 & 2x^2yz & -3yz^2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \vec{i} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (-3yz^2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (2x^2yz) \right] - \vec{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (-3yz^2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (xy^2) \right] + \vec{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2x^2yz) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xy^2) \right]$$

$$= \vec{i}(-3z^2 - 2x^2y) - 0 + \vec{k}(4xyz - 2xy)$$

$$\text{curl } \vec{f}_{(1,-1,1)} = \vec{i}(-3(1^2) - 2(1^2)(-1)) + \vec{k}(4(1)(-1)(1) - 2(1)(-1))$$

$$= -\vec{i} - 2\vec{k}$$

2. Prove that $\text{curl} \bar{r} = 0$

Sol: Let $\bar{r} = x\bar{i} + y\bar{j} + z\bar{k}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{curl} \bar{f} &= \begin{vmatrix} \bar{i} & \bar{j} & \bar{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \bar{i} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(y) \right] - \bar{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(x) \right] + \\ &\quad \bar{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x) \right] \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{curl} \bar{r} = 0$$

$\therefore \bar{r}$ is irrotational

3. Show that the vectors $(x^2 - yz)\bar{i} + (y^2 - zx)\bar{j} + (z^2 - xy)\bar{k}$ is irrotational and find its scalar potential

Sol: Let $\bar{f} = (x^2 - yz)\bar{i} + (y^2 - zx)\bar{j} + (z^2 - xy)\bar{k}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{curl} \bar{f} &= \begin{vmatrix} \bar{i} & \bar{j} & \bar{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x^2 - yz & y^2 - zx & z^2 - xy \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \bar{i}(-x + x) - \bar{j}(-y + y) + \bar{k}(-z + z) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{curl} \bar{f} = 0$$

$\therefore \bar{f}$ is irrotational

If \bar{f} is irrotational, there exists a scalar ϕ such that $\bar{f} = \nabla\phi$

$$(x^2 - yz)\bar{i} + (y^2 - zx)\bar{j} + (z^2 - xy)\bar{k} = \bar{i} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \bar{j} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \bar{k} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = x^2 - yz \quad \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} = y^2 - zx \quad \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} = z^2 - xy$$

By total derivative formula,

$$d\phi = \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} dz$$

$$= (x^2 - yz)dx + (y^2 - zx)dy + (z^2 - xy)dz$$

Integrate on both sides

$$\int d\phi = \int (x^2 - yz)dx + \int (y^2 - zx)dy + \int (z^2 - xy)dz$$

$$\phi = \frac{x^3}{3} - xyz + \frac{y^3}{3} - xyz + \frac{z^3}{3} - xyz + c$$

$$\phi = \frac{1}{3}(x^3 + y^3 + z^3) - xyz + c$$

repeated terms are considered as single term

4. Find the constants a,b,c so that $\vec{A} = (x + 2y + az)\vec{i} + (bx - 3y - z)\vec{j} + (4x + cy + 2z)\vec{k}$ is irrotational. Also find ϕ such that $\vec{A} = \nabla\phi$

Sol: Given $\vec{A} = (x + 2y + az)\vec{i} + (bx - 3y - z)\vec{j} + (4x + cy + 2z)\vec{k}$

$$\text{curl } \vec{A} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ x + 2y + az & bx - 3y - z & 4x + cy + 2z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \vec{i}(c + 1) - \vec{j}(a - 4) + \vec{k}(b - 2)$$

\therefore given \vec{A} is irrotational such that $\text{curl}\vec{A}=0$

$$(c + 1)\vec{i} + (a - 4)\vec{j} + (b - 2)\vec{k} = 0\vec{i} + 0\vec{j} + 0\vec{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 4, b = 2, c = -1$$

$$\therefore \vec{A} = (x + 2y + 4z)\vec{i} + (2x - 3y - z)\vec{j} + (4x - y + 2z)\vec{k}$$

then $\vec{A} = \nabla\phi$

$$(x + 2y + 4z)\vec{i} + (2x - 3y - z)\vec{j} + (4x - y + 2z)\vec{k} = \vec{i} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \vec{j} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} + \vec{k} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = x + 2y + 4z, \quad \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} = 2x - 3y - z, \quad \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} = 4x - y + 2z$$

$$d\phi = (x + 2y + 4z)dx + (2x - 3y - z)dy + (4x - y + 2z)dz$$

Integrate on both sides

$$\int d\phi = \int (x + 2y + 4z)dx + \int (2x - 3y - z)dy + \int (4x - y + 2z)dz$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{3y^2}{2} + z^2 + 2xy - yz + 4xz + c$$

5. Prove that $\text{div}(\vec{r} \times \vec{a}) = 0$ where \vec{a} is a constant vector

Sol: let $\vec{r} = x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k}$ and $\vec{a} = a_1\vec{i} + a_2\vec{j} + a_3\vec{k}$

$$\vec{r} \times \vec{a} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ x & y & z \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \vec{i}(a_3y - a_2z) - \vec{j}(a_3x - a_1z) + \vec{k}(a_2x - a_1y)$$

$$\text{div}(\vec{r} \times \vec{a}) = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z}$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(a_3y - a_2z) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-(a_3x - a_1z)) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(a_2x - a_1y)$$

$$= 0$$

6. Show that if \vec{f} is conservative then \vec{f} is irrotational ?

Sol: The def of conservative vector function there exists a scalar function ϕ such that $\vec{f} = \nabla\phi$

$$\text{curl}\vec{f} = \nabla \times (\nabla\phi)$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \vec{i}\left(\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial y\partial z} - \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial y\partial z}\right) - \vec{j}\left(\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial z} - \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial z}\right) + \vec{k}\left(\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial y} - \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial y}\right)$$

$$= 0$$

$\therefore \vec{f}$ is irrotational

Vector identities:

1. Let \vec{f} , ϕ be differentiable vector and scalar functions respectively then $\nabla \cdot (\phi \vec{f}) = (\nabla \phi) \cdot \vec{f} + \phi (\nabla \cdot \vec{f})$

Sol: Given $\nabla \cdot (\phi \vec{f}) = \sum \bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\phi \vec{f})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum \bar{i} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \vec{f} + \phi \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= \sum \left(\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) \vec{f} + \sum \left(\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} \right) \phi \\ &= \sum \left(\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) \vec{f} + \sum \left(\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} \right) \phi \\ &= \nabla \phi \cdot \vec{f} + (\nabla \cdot \vec{f}) \phi \end{aligned}$$

2. Prove that $\text{curl}(\phi \vec{f}) = \nabla \phi \times \vec{f} + \phi (\nabla \times \vec{f})$

Sol: $\text{curl}(\phi \vec{f}) = \nabla \times (\phi \vec{f})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum \bar{i} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\phi \vec{f}) \\ &= \sum \bar{i} \times \left[\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \vec{f} + \phi \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} \right] \\ &= \sum \bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \vec{f} + \sum \bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} \phi \\ &= \sum \left(\bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) \vec{f} + \sum \left(\bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial x} \right) \phi \\ &= \nabla \phi \times \vec{f} + (\nabla \times \vec{f}) \phi \end{aligned}$$

3. Prove that $\text{div}(\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \vec{B} \cdot \text{curl} \vec{A} - \vec{A} \cdot \text{curl} \vec{B}$

Sol: $\text{div}(\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \nabla \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum \bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) \\ &= \sum \bar{i} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial x} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= \sum \bar{i} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial x} \times \vec{B} \right) - \sum \bar{i} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial x} \times \vec{A} \right) \\ &= \sum \left(\bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \vec{B} - \sum \left(\bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \vec{A} \end{aligned}$$

$$= (\text{curl}\bar{A}) \cdot \bar{B} - (\text{curl}\bar{B}) \cdot \bar{A}$$

4. Prove that $\text{curl}(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) = \bar{A} \text{div}\bar{B} - \bar{B} \text{div}\bar{A} + (\bar{B} \cdot \nabla)\bar{A} - (\bar{A} \cdot \nabla)\bar{B}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sol: } \text{curl}(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) &= \sum \bar{i} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) \\ &= \sum \bar{i} \times \left(\frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x} \times \bar{B} + \bar{A} \times \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= \sum \bar{i} \times \left(\frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x} \times \bar{B} \right) - \sum \bar{i} \times \left(\frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x} \times \bar{A} \right) \\ &= \sum \left[(\bar{i} \cdot \bar{B}) \frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x} - (\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x}) \bar{B} \right] + \sum \left[(\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x}) \bar{A} - (\bar{i} \cdot \bar{A}) \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \bar{a} \times (\bar{b} \times \bar{c}) &= (\bar{a} \cdot \bar{c})\bar{b} - (\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b})\bar{c} \\ &= \sum (\bar{B} \cdot \bar{i}) \frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x} - \sum (\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x}) \bar{B} + \sum (\bar{i} \times \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x}) \bar{A} - \sum (\bar{i} \cdot \bar{A}) \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x} \\ &= \sum (\bar{B} \cdot \bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x}) \bar{A} - \left(\sum \bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial x} \right) \bar{B} + \sum (\bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x}) \bar{A} - \sum (\bar{A} \cdot \bar{i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x}) \bar{B} \\ &= (\bar{B} \cdot \nabla)\bar{A} - (\nabla \cdot \bar{A})\bar{B} + (\nabla \cdot \bar{B})\bar{A} - (\bar{A} \cdot \nabla)\bar{B} \\ &= \bar{A} \text{div} - \bar{B} \text{div}\bar{A} + (\bar{B} \cdot \nabla)\bar{A} - (\bar{A} \cdot \nabla)\bar{B} \end{aligned}$$

5. Prove that $\nabla f \times \nabla g$ is solenoidal

$$\text{Sol: w.k.t } \text{div}(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) = \bar{B} \cdot \text{curl}\bar{A} - \bar{A} \cdot \text{curl}\bar{B}$$

$$\text{Let } \bar{A} = \nabla f \text{ and } \bar{B} = \nabla g$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{div}(\nabla f - \nabla g) &= \nabla g \cdot \text{curl}\nabla f - \nabla f \cdot \text{curl}\nabla g \\ &= 0 - 0 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{curl}(\text{grad } g) = 0 = \text{curl}(\text{grad } f)$$

6. Let ϕ, φ be two scalar functions then $\text{div}(\phi \nabla \varphi) = \phi \nabla^2 \varphi + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \varphi$

$$\text{Sol: we have } \nabla \varphi = \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} \bar{i} + \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y} \bar{j} + \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z} \bar{k}$$

$$\phi \nabla \varphi = \phi \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} \bar{i} + \phi \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y} \bar{j} + \phi \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z} \bar{k}$$

$$\text{div}(\phi \nabla \varphi) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\phi \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\phi \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\phi \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \phi \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \phi \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \phi \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \\
&= \phi \left[\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} \right] + \left[\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right] \\
&= \phi \nabla^2 \phi + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \phi
\end{aligned}$$

Second order differential operator:

The divergence of gradient of a function is called Laplacian operator and is denoted by ∇^2

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \text{ is called Laplacian operator}$$

If $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$ then ϕ is called harmonic function

1. Prove that $\nabla^2(r^n) = n(n+1)r^{n-2}$

Sol: Let $\vec{r} = x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k}$

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$\text{then } \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla^2(r^n) &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}(r^n) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}(r^n) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}(r^n) \\
&= \sum \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}(r^n) \\
&= \sum \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(r^n) \right] \\
&= \sum \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[n \cdot r^{n-1} \cdot \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right] \\
&= \sum \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [n \cdot r^{n-2} \cdot x] \\
&= \sum n \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x r^{n-1}] \\
&= \sum n \left[x(n-2)r^{n-3} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + r^{n-2} \right] \\
&= \sum n \left[x(n-2)r^{n-3} \frac{x}{r} + r^{n-2} \right] \\
&= \sum n [x^2(n-2)r^{n-4} + r^{n-2}] \\
&= n((n-2)x^2r^{n-4} + r^{n-2} + (n-2)y^2r^{n-4} + r^{n-2} + (n-2)z^2r^{n-4} + r^{n-2})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= n[3r^{n-2} + (n-2)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)r^{n-4}] \\
&= n[3r^{n-2} + (n-2)r^{n-4}r^2] \\
&= n[3r^{n-2} + (n-2)r^{n-2}] \\
&= n(r^{n-2})[3 + n - 2]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \nabla^2(r^n) = n(n+1)r^{n-2}$$

2. Prove that $\nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \frac{\bar{r}}{r} \right) = \frac{-2}{r^3} \bar{r}$

Sol: Let $\bar{r} = x\bar{i} + y\bar{j} + z\bar{k}$

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$\text{then } \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{r}, \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla \cdot \frac{\bar{r}}{r} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x}{r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{y}{r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{z}{r} \right) \\
&= \sum \left[\frac{r \cdot 1 - x \cdot \frac{\partial r}{\partial x}}{r^2} \right] \\
&= \sum \left[\frac{r - \frac{x^2}{r}}{r^2} \right] \\
&= \sum \frac{1}{r^2} \left[r - \frac{x^2}{r} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{r^2} \left[r - \frac{x^2}{r} + r - \frac{y^2}{r} + r - \frac{z^2}{r} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{r^2} \left[3r - \frac{1}{r}(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{r^2} \left[3r - \frac{r^2}{r} \right] \\
&= \frac{2r}{r^2} \\
&= \frac{2}{r}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla \left(\nabla \cdot \frac{\bar{r}}{r} \right) &= \bar{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{2}{r} \right) + \bar{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{2}{r} \right) + \bar{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{2}{r} \right) \\
&= \sum \bar{i} \left[\frac{-2}{r^2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \right] \\
&= \sum \bar{i} \left[\frac{-2x}{r^3} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{-2}{r^3} \sum x\bar{i} \\
&= \frac{-2}{r^3} [x\bar{i} + y\bar{j} + z\bar{k}] \\
&= \frac{-2}{r^3} \bar{r}
\end{aligned}$$

3. Show that $\nabla\phi$ is both solenoidal and irrotational if $\nabla^2\phi = 0$

Sol: Given that $\nabla^2\phi = 0$

$$\text{div}(\nabla\phi) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \nabla\phi \text{ is solenoidal}$$

$$\text{curl}(\nabla\phi) = \nabla \times \nabla\phi$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \begin{vmatrix} \bar{i} & \bar{j} & \bar{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \end{vmatrix} \\
&= \bar{i} \left(\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial y\partial z} - \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial y\partial z} \right) - \bar{j} \left(\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial z} - \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial z} \right) + \bar{k} \left(\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial y} - \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x\partial y} \right) \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \nabla\phi$ is irrotational