

231 Tutorial Sheet 5¹²

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Useful facts:

- For a scalar field ϕ the gradient is

$$\text{grad } \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \mathbf{k} \quad (1)$$

- For a vector field $\mathbf{F} = (F_1, F_2, F_3)$ the divergence is

$$\text{div } \mathbf{F} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z} \quad (2)$$

- For a vector field $\mathbf{F} = (F_1, F_2, F_3)$ the curl is

$$\text{curl } \mathbf{F} = \nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ F_1 & F_2 & F_3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (3)$$

- The Laplacian:

$$\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \quad (4)$$

- To evaluate the line integral for a parameterized curve:

$$\int_c \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathbf{F} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} dt \quad (5)$$

where t_1 and t_2 are the parameter values corresponding to the beginning and end of the curve.

- A vector field is *solenoidal* if it has zero divergence.
- A vector field is *irrotational* if it has zero curl.

Questions

1. Calculate $\text{curl } \mathbf{r}/r$ and $\text{div } \mathbf{r}/r$ away from the origin. What is Δr ?

2. Prove the identity

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = 0 \quad (6)$$

3. Prove the identity

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}) - \Delta \mathbf{F}. \quad (7)$$

4. Compute the line integrals:

(a) $\int_C (dx \, xy + \frac{1}{2} dy \, x^2 + dz)$ where C is the line segment joining the origin and the point $(1, 1, 2)$.

(b) $\int_C (dx \, yz + dy \, xz + dz \, yx^2)$ where C is the same line as in the previous part

5. For each of the following vector fields compute the line integral $\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ where C is the unit circle in the xy -plane taken anti-clockwise.

(a) $\mathbf{F} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j}$

(b) $\mathbf{F} = y\mathbf{i} - x^2 y\mathbf{j}$.

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²Including material from Chris Ford, to whom many thanks.