

## Section #8

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Covered: §4.3, §4.4, §5.1, Exam Review. Practice Problems out Wednesday.

## 4.3 – Vector Fields

- A vector field in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a map  $\mathbf{F}(x) : A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  that assigns each point  $\mathbf{x}$  a vector  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})$ .
- Gravitational force at each point is a good example to help with intuition.
- The gradient of a function  $\nabla f(x, y, z) = f_x(x, y, z)\mathbf{i} + f_y(x, y, z)\mathbf{j} + f_z(x, y, z)\mathbf{k}$  defines a vector field. We call it the **gradient vector field**.
- If  $\mathbf{F}$  is a vector field, a flow line is a path  $\mathbf{c}'(t)$  such that  $\mathbf{c}'(t) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{c}(t))$ . Intuitively, it traces the path of a particle in the vector field as a result of the forces described at each point by the vector field.
- Example 1: Show that  $\mathbf{c}(t) = (\cos(t), \sin(t), t)$  is a flow line for the vector field  $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = (-y, x, 1)$ .

## 4.4 – Divergence and Curl

- If  $\mathbf{F} = F_1\mathbf{i} + F_2\mathbf{j} + F_3\mathbf{k}$  is a vector field, the divergence of  $\mathbf{F}$  is  $\operatorname{div} \mathbf{F} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z}$ .
- Interpretation – if  $\mathbf{F}$  is a velocity field of a fluid, divergence tells us rate of expansion from the flow of fluid. Can also think about it as a “source” or “sink” – net material entering or leaving that position. Or, think about as “flux density” – flux entering or leaving a point.
- If  $\mathbf{F} = F_1\mathbf{i} + F_2\mathbf{j} + F_3\mathbf{k}$  is a vector field, the curl of  $\mathbf{F}$  is  $\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F} = \nabla \times \mathbf{F}$ .
- Interpretation – the amount of “rotation” at a specific point. Can also consider the concept of circulation as the amount of “stuff” parallel to the direction of motion. Then, curl is circulation per unit area.
- Other things to know:
  - Gradients are curl-free i.e.  $\nabla \times (\nabla f) = 0$ . (Expand)
  - Curls are divergence-free i.e.  $\operatorname{div} \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F} = \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = 0$ . (Expand)
  - Laplace operator  $\nabla^2$  defined to be divergence of gradient –  $\nabla^2 f = \nabla \cdot (\nabla f)$ .
- Example 2: Prove  $\operatorname{div} (\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G}) = \operatorname{div} \mathbf{F} + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{G}$ .
- Example 3: Prove  $\operatorname{curl} (\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G}) = \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F} + \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{G}$ .
- Example 4: Prove  $\nabla^2(fg) = f\nabla^2g + g\nabla^2f + 2(\nabla f \cdot \nabla g)$ .

## 5.1 – Introduction to Double Integrals

- Example 5: Evaluate

$$\iint_R x^3 + y^3 dx dy$$

where  $R = [-2, 2] \times [1, 4]$ .