

Divergence,  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot$

to be shown,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} h_2 h_3 + \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} h_1 h_3 + \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} h_1 h_2$$

But since we will consider Cartesian coordinates  
where  $h_1 = h_2 = h_3 = 1$   
( $h_x = h_y = h_z = 1$ )

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot = \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z}$$

Consider differentiation of vectors,  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot$ ,  $\vec{\nabla} \times$ , ...

a) Divergence,  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} &= \left( \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot \left( \hat{i} A_x + \hat{j} A_y + \hat{k} A_z \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} A_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} A_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} A_z\end{aligned}$$

Examples

Let:  $\vec{A}(r) = \hat{r} f(r)$

Central  
force field

where  $\vec{r} = (\hat{i}x + \hat{j}y + \hat{k}z)$  and  $\hat{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{|\vec{r}|}$

(i)  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{r} =$ ,  $f(r) = r$

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (x, y, z) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$$

(ii) Let:  $f(r) = ar^n$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot [\hat{r} ar^n] = \vec{\nabla} \cdot [\vec{r} ar^{n-1}]$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (axr^{n-1}, ayr^{n-1}, azr^{n-1})$$

$$= a \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (xr^{n-1}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (yr^{n-1}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (zr^{n-1}) \right\}$$

$$= a \left[ r^{n-1} + x(n-1)r^{n-2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + r^{n-1} + y(n-1)r^{n-2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} + r^{n-1} + z(n-1)r^{n-2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} \right]$$

Comment:  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{2}{2x} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

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

$$\Rightarrow = a \left\{ 3r^{n-1} + (n-1)xr^{n-2} \frac{x}{r} + (n-1)yr^{n-2} \frac{y}{r} + (n-1)zr^{n-2} \frac{z}{r} \right\}$$

$$= a \left\{ 3r^{n-1} + (n-1)r^{n-3} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2) \right\}$$

$$= a \left\{ 3r^{n-1} + (n-1)r^{n-1} \right\}$$

$$= ar^{n-1}(n+2) = \vec{\nabla} \cdot (ar^{\hat{r}}r^n)$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot (ar^{\hat{r}}r^n) = 0 \text{ if } n = -2 \rightarrow f(r) = a \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}!$$

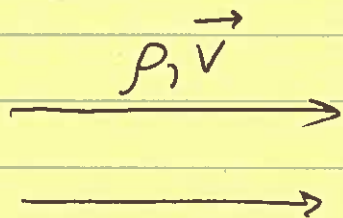
However, ~~if~~ we need to be a little careful; we must treat  $r=0$  with some care.

We will find that  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (ar^{\hat{r}}r^n) = 0$  at  $r \neq 0$ , but that it goes to  $\infty$  at  $r=0$

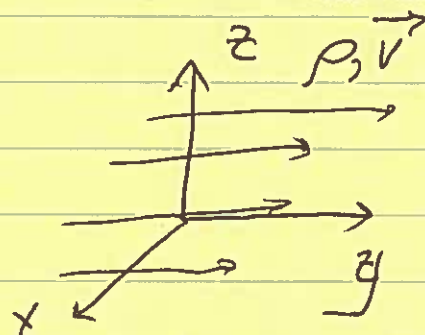
Important:  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho/\epsilon_0, \vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q\hat{r}}{r^2}$

Physically, how can we interpret the divergence?

Consider a fluid flow

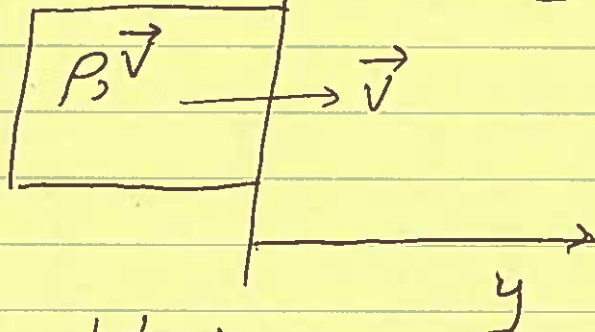


in Cartesian coordinates



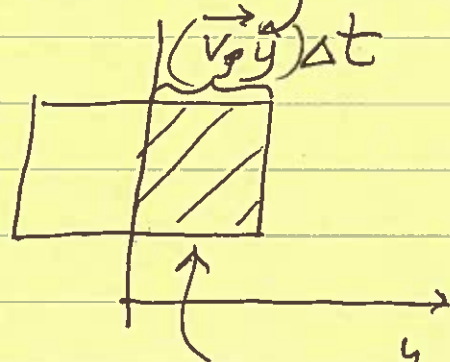
Let's define flux (flow of fluid) from fluid

(i) Imagine sit in the  $xz$  plane at  $y=0$  surface, area  $A = A \hat{y}$



at  $t=0$

, after  $\Delta t$



(ii) How much mass flowed across  $A$  in  $\Delta t$ ?

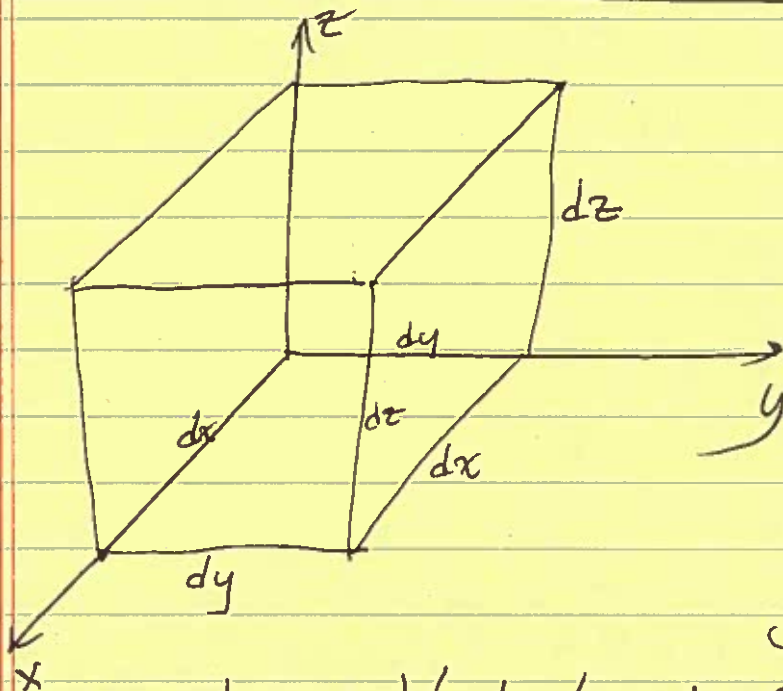
$$\Delta M = \text{Volume} \times \rho = \underbrace{A \times (v_y \Delta t)}_{\text{volume}} \rho$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\Delta M}{\Delta t} = A \rho v_y \equiv \text{amount of mass that flowed across surface in } \Delta t$$

we define flux as

$$\frac{1}{A} \frac{\Delta M}{\Delta t} = \rho \vec{v} \cdot \hat{A} = \text{flux}$$

Consider a box in Cartesian space



Each area is  $A$  so  
 let  $A_y \hat{e}_y$ ,  $A_z \hat{e}_z$ ,  $A_x \hat{e}_x$   
 as before

~~Each side~~

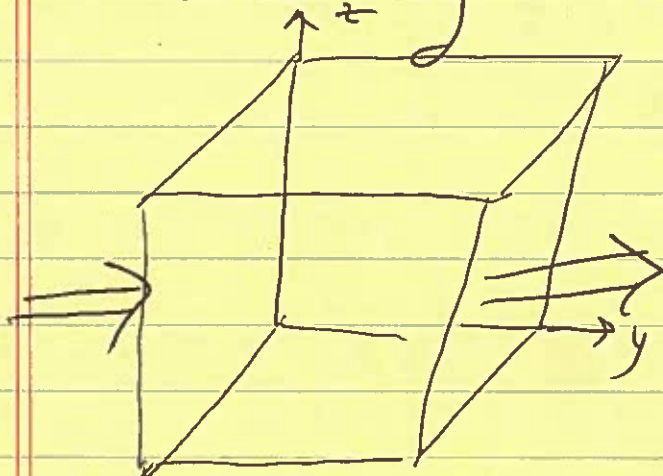
where

$$A_x = dy dz$$

$$A_y = dx dz$$

$$A_z = dx dy$$

(i) Okay, let's look at flow in  $\hat{y}$  direction  
 and ask how does the mass change  
 according to this flow,



$$\rho_1 \vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{A}_y \Delta t$$

$$\rho_2 \vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{A}_y \Delta t$$

mass ~~in~~ in  
 $\Delta t$ ,  $\hat{y}$

$$\text{mass in: } \rho_1 \vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{A}_y \Delta t$$

$$\text{mass out: } -\rho_2 \vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{A}_y \Delta t$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta m &= \rho(x, y, z) v_y(x, y, z) A_y \Delta t \\
 &\quad - \rho(x, y + \Delta y, z) v_y(x, y + \Delta y, z) A_y \Delta t \\
 &= \rho(x, y, z) v_y(x, y, z) A_y \Delta t \\
 &\quad - \left[ \rho(x, y, z) + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y} \Delta y \right] \left[ v_y(x, y, z) + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} \Delta y \right] A_y \Delta t \\
 &= - \left[ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y} v_y(x, y, z) + \rho(x, y, z) \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} \right] \Delta y A_y \Delta t
 \end{aligned}$$

← drop 2<sup>nd</sup> order terms

$$\Delta m = - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [\rho v_y] \Delta y A_y \Delta t$$

(iii) Expand answer to all 3 directions

$$\Delta m = \overset{V}{\Delta t} \left[ - \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho v_y \right) - \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rho v_x \right) - \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \rho v_z \right) \right]$$

where  $V = dx dy dz$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta \rho = \frac{\Delta m}{V} = \Delta t \left[ - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta \rho}{\Delta t} = - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) \rightarrow \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \rho \vec{v} = 0$$

Equation of Continuity ← mass flux

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

(i) In general, we encounter continuity equations all of the time and we write them generally as

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_\rho = 0$$

some density of a quantity ← flux of that quantity

(ii) In fluids, we define the momentum density,

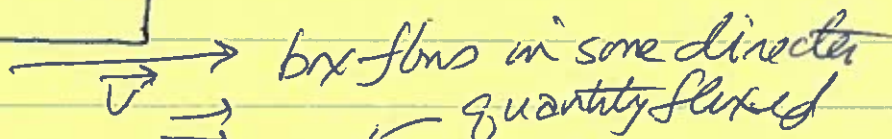
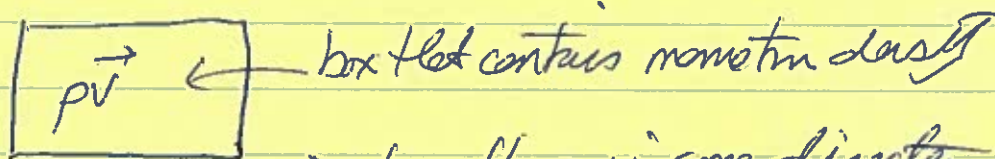
$$\vec{\Phi} = \rho \vec{v} = \frac{\text{momentum}}{\text{volume}}$$

and we write

$$\frac{\partial \rho \vec{v}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \vec{\Phi}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \vec{S}$$

← stress tensor  
flux of momentum

if only fluid matters are considered, we have



$$\Rightarrow \vec{S} = (\rho \vec{v}) \vec{v}$$

← speed (velocity) of flux

note that  $\vec{S}$  is a tensor  
box has 3 components

$\rho(v_x, v_y, v_z)$  → flow  $(v_x, v_y, v_z)$  has 3  
components

and  $\vec{S} = \rho \vec{v} \vec{v}$  can be written

$$S_{ij} = \rho v_i v_j$$

(iii) for an EM field, the  $E$  &  $B$  fields carry momentum and the Maxwell stress tensor is defined

$$\vec{S} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} \vec{E} + \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{B} \vec{B} - \frac{1}{2} \vec{I} \left( \epsilon_0 E^2 + \frac{1}{\mu_0} B^2 \right)$$

$\mu_0$  (unit tensor)

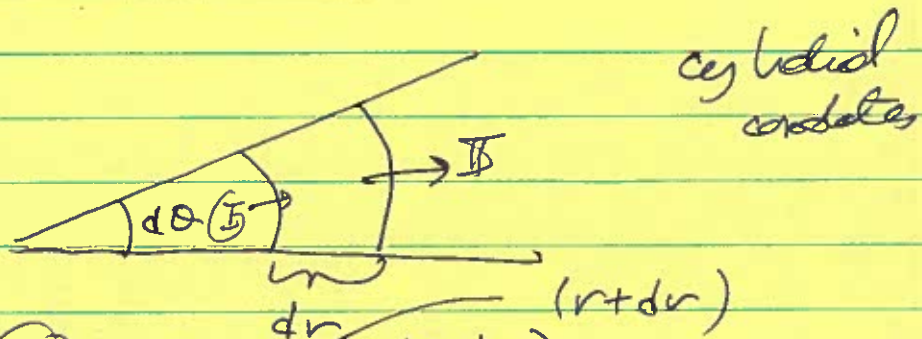
or

$$S_{ij} = \epsilon_0 E_i E_j + \frac{1}{\mu_0} B_i B_j - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \left( \epsilon_0 E^2 + \frac{1}{\mu_0} B^2 \right)$$



$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0, \text{ Continuity Eqn.}$$

(e) Comment: In our derivation, we were apparently cavalier w/ our handling of the area elements,  $(dx, dy)$ ,  $(dy, dz)$ ,  $(dz, dx)$ . In Cartesian coordinates, this okay, but in ~~spatial~~ <sup>curvilinear</sup> coordinates this is not okay, e.g.,



at (II),  $(\rho v_r) (r dr d\theta dz)$

(I)  $(\rho v_r) (r) (r_I d\theta dz)$

Area elements change w/r  $\nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v})$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r \rho v_r)$$

because of the coordinate system