

Lecture 9: Divergence Theorem



- Consider migrating wildebeest, with velocity vector field

$$\vec{V}(\vec{r}) = (1, 1, 0) \text{ m/s}$$

$$\rho = 16 \text{ m}^{-2}$$

- Zero **influx** (s^{-1}) into blue triangle:

0 along hypotenuse

$+16 \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}}$ along this side

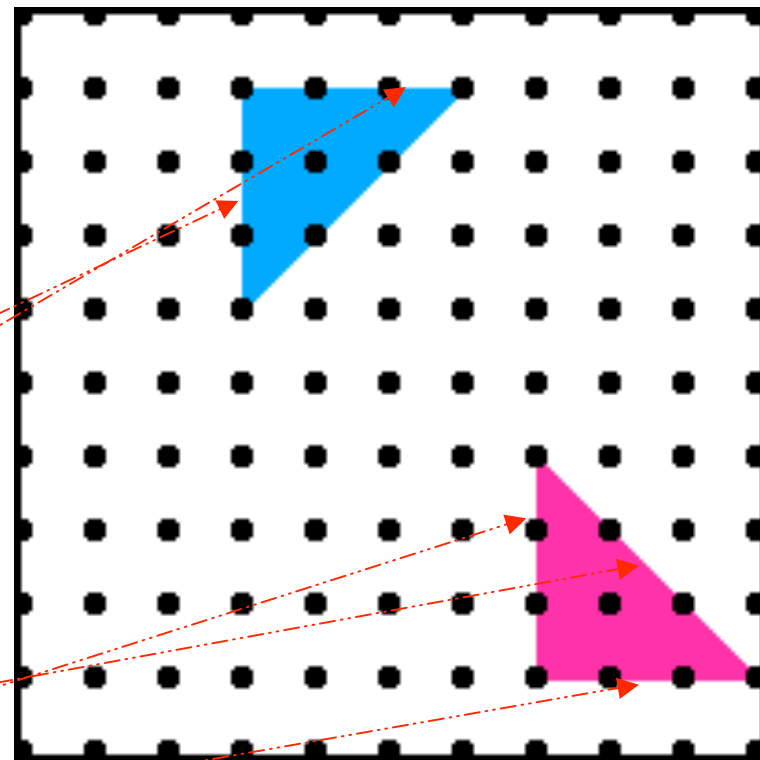
$-16 \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}}$ along this side

- Zero influx into pink triangle

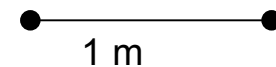
$+16 \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}}$ along this side

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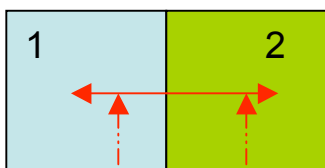


because $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{V} = 0$



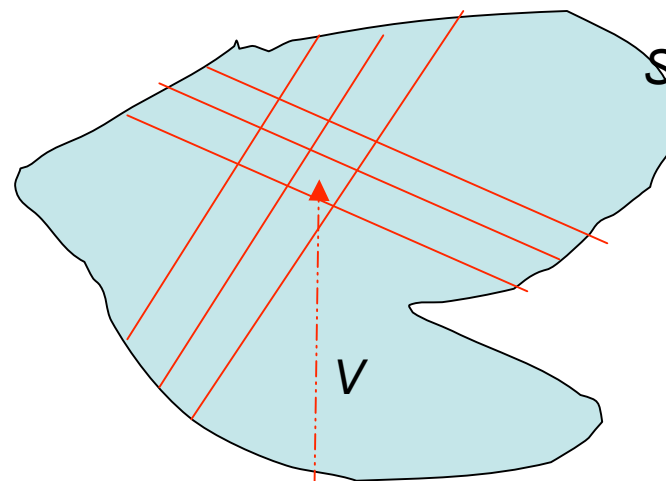
Proof of Divergence Theorem

- Take definition of div from infinitesimal volume dV to **macroscopic volume V**
- Sum $\oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S}$ over all surfaces
- Interior surfaces cancel since \vec{A} is same but vector areas oppose



$$d\vec{S}_2 = -d\vec{S}_1$$

DIVERGENCE THEOREM



Divide into infinite number of small cubes dV_i

$$\Rightarrow \oint \oint_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} = \underbrace{\int \int \int_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} dV}_{\text{summed over all tiny cubes}}$$

over **closed** outer surface enclosing V

summed over all tiny cubes

2D Example

- “outflux (or influx) from a body = total loss (gain) from the **surface**”

$$\vec{V}(\vec{r}) = (1, 1) \text{ m/s}$$

$$\rho = 16 \text{ m}^{-2}$$

$$d\vec{S} = \frac{1}{R}(R \cos \theta, R \sin \theta) R d\theta$$

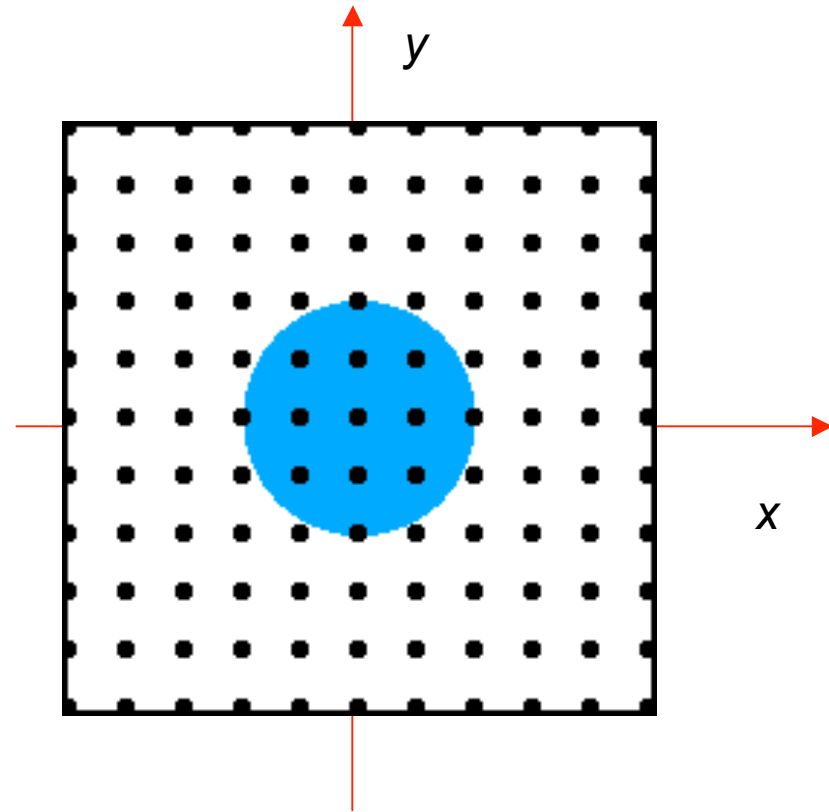
$$\oint_{\text{perimeter}} \rho \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{S} =$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \rho R (\cos \theta + \sin \theta) d\theta = 0$$

- exactly as predicted by the divergence theorem since

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = \rho \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{V} = 0 \text{ everywhere}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \int_{\text{circle}} \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) dV = 0$$



Circle, radius R (in m)

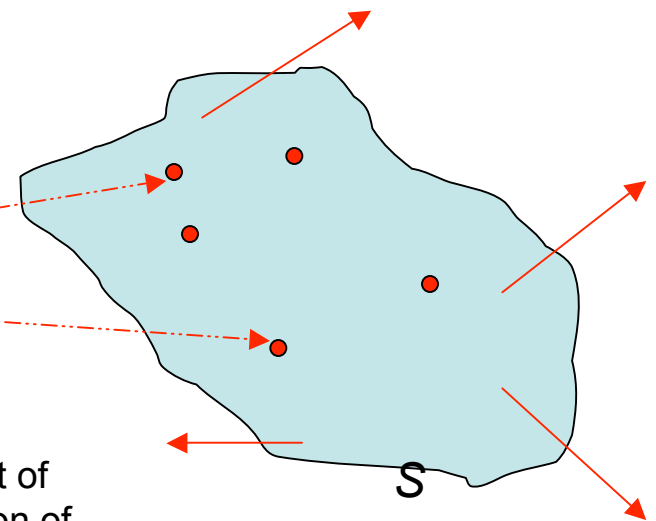
- There is no ‘Wildebeest Generating Machine’ in the circle!

3D Physics Example: Gauss's Theorem

- Consider tiny spheres around each charge:

$$\oint \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon\epsilon_0 r^2} 4\pi r^2$$

$$\oint \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{\sum_i q_i}{\epsilon\epsilon_0}$$



independent of
exact location of
charges within V

- Where sum is over charges enclosed by S in volume V

- Applying the **Divergence Theorem**

$$\oint \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int \int \int_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} dV = \frac{\int \int \int_V \rho_f dV}{\epsilon\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_f}{\epsilon\epsilon_0}$$

- The **integral** and **differential** form of **Gauss's Theorem**

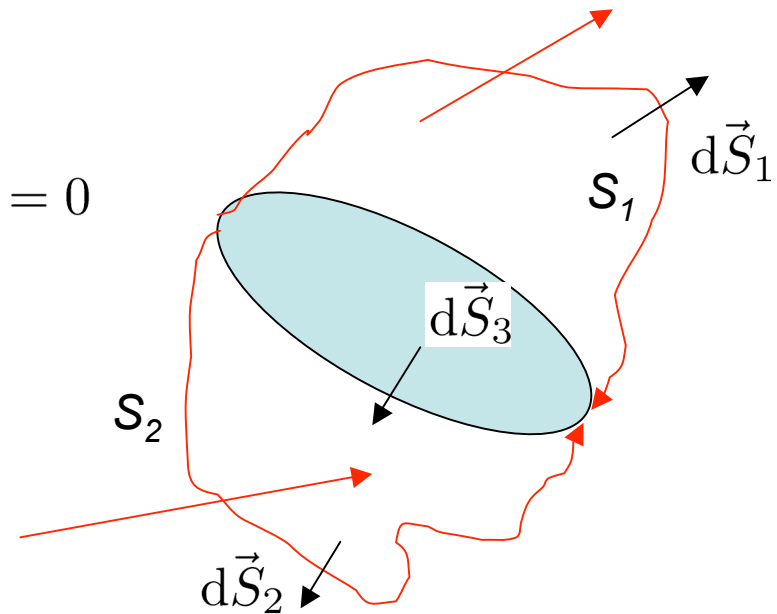
Example: Two non-closed surfaces with same rim

if $\text{div} \vec{A} = 0$ then

$$\oint \oint_S \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int \int_{S_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} + \int \int_{S_2} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} = 0$$

$$\text{and } \int \int_{S_1} + \int \int_{S_3} = 0 \text{ and } \int \int_{S_2} - \int \int_{S_3} = 0$$

- Which means integral depends on **rim** not surface if $\text{div} \vec{A} = 0$
- Special case when $\vec{A} = \text{constant}$ shows why vector area $\vec{S}_1 = -\vec{S}_2$
- If $\text{div} \vec{A} \neq 0$ then integral depends on rim and surface

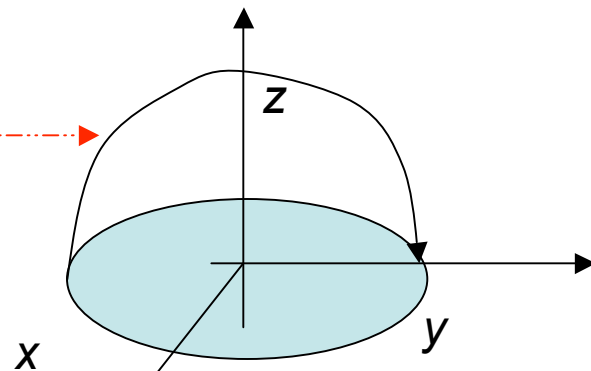


S is **closed** surface
formed by $S_1 + S_2$

Divergence Theorem as aid to doing complicated surface integrals

- Example $\int \int_S \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{S}$ over open hemisphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2, z \geq 0$

$$\vec{F} = (y - x, x^2 z, z + x^2)$$



- Evaluate Directly $d\vec{S} = \frac{1}{a} \underbrace{(x, y, z)}_{\vec{\hat{n}}} dS$

on surface $x = a \sin \theta \cos \phi$
 $y = a \sin \theta \sin \phi$
 $z = a \cos \theta$

- Tedious integral over θ and ϕ (exercise for student!) gives

$$\frac{\pi a^4}{4}$$

$$dS = a^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi$$

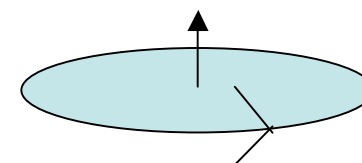
Using the Divergence Theorem

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (y - x, x^2 z, z + x^2) = -1 + 0 + 1 = 0$$

- So integral depends only on **rim**: so do easy integral over circle

$$x^2 + y^2 = a^2, z = 0$$

$$\iint (y - x, 0, x^2) \cdot (0, 0, 1) dx dy$$



$$= \int_0^a \int_0^{2\pi} r^2 \cos^2 \phi r dr d\phi = \frac{a^4}{4} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \phi d\phi = \frac{\pi a^4}{4}$$

- as always beware of signs

$$\iint_{\text{hemisphere}} -\frac{\pi a^4}{4} = 0 \Rightarrow \iint_{\text{hemisphere}} = \frac{\pi a^4}{4}$$

Product of Divergences

- Example $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{r}f(r))$ where $r = |\vec{r}|$ and $f(r)$ is a scalar function

$$= \sum_{\alpha=1}^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{\alpha}} [f(r)x_{\alpha}] = \sum_{\alpha=1}^3 \left[f \frac{\partial x_{\alpha}}{\partial x_{\alpha}} + x_{\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{\alpha}} \right] \quad x_{\alpha} = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \text{ or } (x, y, z)$$

free index

$$= 3f + \sum_1^3 x_{\alpha} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{\alpha}} = 3f + \vec{r} \cdot \vec{\nabla} f$$

$$= 3f + \vec{r} \cdot \left[f' \frac{\vec{r}}{r} \right] = 3f + rf'$$

Writing all these summation signs gets very tedious! (see **summation convention** in Lecture 14).

$$\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial x_j} = \delta_{ij}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1 \text{ if } i = j \\ &= 0 \text{ if } i \neq j \end{aligned}$$

Kronecker Delta: in 3D space, a special set of 9 numbers also known as the **unit matrix**