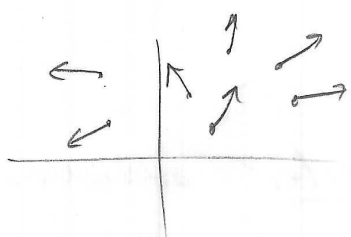


Vector fields (Sec 15.1)

$$F: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$



$$F(x, y) = (f_1(x, y), f_2(x, y))$$

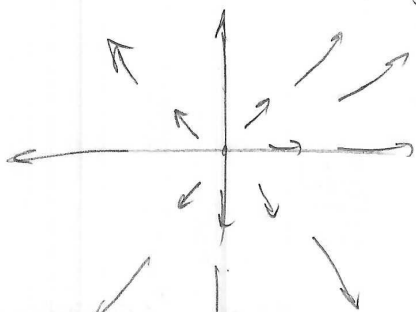
$$= (M(x, y), N(x, y))$$

$$F: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

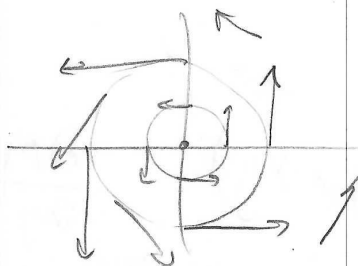
$$F(x, y, z) = (f_1(x, y, z), \dots) = (M, N, P)$$

Examples:

$$F(x, y) = (x, y)$$



$$G(x, y) = (-y, x)$$

→ computer  
DEMOS

Def. (Flow line / Integral curve).  $\gamma$  is int. curve of  $F$  if  $\gamma'(t) = F(\gamma(t))$   
 $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $F = \nabla f$  is a vector field

e.g.:  $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2)$   $F = \nabla f$  is the above.

Q: How about  $G$ ? Is  $G = \nabla g$  for some  $g$ ?

A: No: Periodic orbits! Function increases along  
 integral curves of  $\nabla f$ . So can't come back  
 to where it was unless it stayed constant.  
 But then this would be a levelset (and that's orthogonal)  $\perp$

Def. A vector field  $F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is conservative if  $\exists f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $F = \nabla f$ . The function  $f$  is called a potential function for  $F$ .

Q: When is  $F = (M, N)$  conservative?

Thm: Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be a simply-connected domain.

Then  $F: \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is conservative if and only

$$\text{if } \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}.$$

Ex:

$$F(x, y) = (x^2 y, xy) \quad \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = x^2 \neq \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = y$$

$$F(x, y) = (2xy, x^2 - y) \quad \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 2x = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \quad \text{conservative} \quad \leftarrow \text{not conservative.}$$

$$F(x, y) = (2x, y) \quad \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 0 = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \quad \text{conservative!}$$

Q: If  $F$  is conservative, how to find  $f$  s.t.  $F = \nabla f$ ?

A:  $f(x, y) = \int M(x, y) dx + g(y)$

or  $f(x, y) = \int N(x, y) dy + g(x).$

Ex. Find a potential function for

$$F(x,y) = (2xy, x^2 - y) = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$f(x,y) = \int 2xy \, dx + g(y) = x^2 y + g(y)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 + g'(y) = x^2 - y = N$$

$\Downarrow$

$$g'(y) = -y \Rightarrow g(y) = -\frac{y^2}{2} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x,y) = x^2 y - \frac{y^2}{2} + C$$

$$\text{Ex: } f(x,y) = e^x \cos y + K \\ F(x,y) = (e^x \cos y, -e^x \sin y)$$

Q: When is  $F: \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  conservative?  $F = (M, N, P)$

Thm: If  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  is simply-connected, then  $F: \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is conservative if and only if  $\text{curl } F = 0$ .

$$\text{curl } F = \nabla \times F = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ M & N & P \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial M}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} \right)$$

Ex.  $F(x, y, z) = (2xy, x^2 + z^2, 2yz)$

$$\nabla_x F = 0$$

Find a potential?

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y, z) &= \int 2xy \, dx + g(y, z) \\ &= x^2 y + g(y, z) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} &= x^2 + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}(y, z) = x^2 + z^2 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = z^2 \Rightarrow \\ &\Rightarrow g(y, z) = z^2 y + h(z) \end{aligned}$$

So  $f(x, y, z) = x^2 y + z^2 y + h(z)$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = 2zy + h'(z) = 2yz \Rightarrow h'(z) = 0 \Rightarrow h(z) = C.$$

$$f(x, y, z) = (x^2 + z^2)y + C$$

Ex:  $F(x, y, z) = (ye^{xy}, xe^{xy} + \sin z, y \cos z)$

$$f(x, y, z) = e^{xy} + y \sin(z) + C$$

$$\int ye^{xy} \, dx = e^{xy} + g(y, z)$$

$$xe^{xy} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = xe^{xy} + \sin z$$

$$\Rightarrow g = y \sin z + h(z)$$

✓

Divergence:  $\text{div } F = \nabla \cdot F = \left\langle \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right), (M, N, P) \right\rangle$

$$= \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z}$$

Ex:  $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = (x^3 y^2 z^2, x^2 z^2, x^2 y)$   
 $\text{div } \vec{F} = 3x^2 y^2 z^2 + x^2 z^2 + x^2 y$

Measures how volume changes along a flow.

incompressible fluid  $\Leftrightarrow \text{div } \vec{F} = 0$