

## Assignment 6 - Vector Fields, Surfaces, Surface Integrals, $\nabla$ .

1. Suppose that  $\mathbf{v} = (0, y, 0)$  is the velocity field of a fluid and let  $S$  be the surface defined by  $y = x^2 + z^2$ , with  $y \leq 1$ . Calculate the volume of fluid crossing  $S$  in unit time, in the direction of increasing  $y$ .
2. Verify the following properties of the curl.

(i) *Sum* of two vector fields:

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G}) = \nabla \times \mathbf{F} + \nabla \times \mathbf{G}.$$

(ii) *Product* of a scalar field and a vector field:

$$\nabla \times (f\mathbf{F}) = f\nabla \times \mathbf{F} + \nabla f \times \mathbf{F}.$$

(iii) *Vector product* of two vector fields:

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{G}) = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{G})\mathbf{F} - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F})\mathbf{G} + (\mathbf{G} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{F} - (\mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{G}$$

3. Verify the following “zero identities”:

(i)  $\nabla \times (\nabla f) = \mathbf{0}$ , for any  $C^2$  scalar field  $f$ .

(ii)  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = 0$ , for any  $C^2$  vector field  $\mathbf{F}$ .

4. Let  $f, g$  be  $C^2$  scalar fields on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

(i) Verify that  $\nabla \times (f\nabla g) = \nabla f \times \nabla g$ .

(ii) Simplify  $\nabla \times (f\nabla g + g\nabla f)$ .

(iii) Verify that  $\nabla \cdot (f\nabla g) = f\nabla^2 g + \nabla f \cdot \nabla g$ .

5. Verify the “curl of a curl” identity

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{F}.$$

where  $\nabla^2$  is the Laplacian operator.

6. Use Maxwell’s equations (see Section 4.1.1) to show that if the charge density field  $\varepsilon$  and the current density field  $\mathbf{J}$  are zero, the electric vector field  $\mathbf{E}$  satisfies the “wave equation”

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \nabla^2 \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{0}.$$

This is the fundamental equation that describes the propagation of electromagnetic waves, such as light.