

Vector Calculus
Grad, Div and Curl Identities

Question

If \underline{F} is given by

$$\underline{F} = xe^{2z}\underline{i} + ye^{2z}\underline{j} - e^{2z}\underline{k},$$

show that \underline{F} is a solenoidal vector field. Find a vector field for \underline{F} .

Answer

Given \underline{F}

$$\Rightarrow \operatorname{div}\underline{F} = e^{2z} + e^{2z} - 2e^{2z} = 0$$

so \underline{F} is solenoidal.

If $\underline{F} = \nabla \times \underline{G}$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \frac{\partial G_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial G_2}{\partial z} &= xe^{2z} \\ \frac{\partial G_1}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial G_3}{\partial x} &= ye^{2z} \\ \frac{\partial G_2}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial G_1}{\partial y} &= -e^{2z}\end{aligned}$$

Find a solution with $G_2 = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow G_3 = \int xe^{2z} dy = xye^{2z} + M(x, z).$$

Try setting $M(x, z) = 0$, $\Rightarrow G_3 = xye^{2z}$. So now

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial G_1}{\partial z} &= ye^{2z} + \frac{\partial G_3}{\partial x} = 2ye^{2z} \\ \Rightarrow G_1 &= \int 2ye^{2z} dz = ye^{2z} + N(x, y) \\ \text{As } -e^{2z} &= \frac{\partial G_1}{\partial y} = -e^{2z} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial y},\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{take } N(x, y) = 0$$

So a vector potential for \underline{F} is given by

$$\underline{G} = ye^{2z}\underline{i} + xye^{2z}\underline{k}.$$