

Vector Calculus
Grad, Div and Curl

Question

Calculate **divF** and **curlF** for the vector field

$$\underline{F} = \hat{\theta} = -\sin\theta \underline{i} + \cos\theta \underline{j}$$

Answer

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}\underline{F} &= \frac{\cos\theta \sin\theta}{r} - \frac{\cos\theta \sin\theta}{r} = 0 \\ \operatorname{curl}\underline{F} &= \begin{vmatrix} \underline{i} & \underline{j} & \underline{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \left(\frac{\sin^2\theta}{r} + \frac{\cos^2\theta}{r} \right) \underline{k} = \frac{1}{r} \underline{k} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \underline{k} \end{aligned}$$