

Integral and Vector Calculus
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Lecture – 38
Divergence & Curl Examples

Hello students. So, in the last class we introduced the concepts of a gradient of a scalar function and Divergence and Curl of a vector function. We also worked out few examples on a gradient of a scalar function; how do you calculate it and then we gave definitions of divergence and curl of a vector function.

Today we will practice few more examples, but basically we will start with the examples on divergence and the curl of a vector function and we will see how we calculate them and there are some results which are sort of important from these two these two concepts. So, let us start with our with our a how to say examples on divergence and curl.

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$$\text{Divergence \& Curl: } \vec{f}, \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{f} = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z}, \quad \vec{f} = (f_1, f_2, f_3)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{f} = \hat{i} \left(\frac{\partial f_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial z} \right) + \hat{j} \left(\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x} \right) + \hat{k} \left(\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \right)$$

Ex: Let $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$, then find $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{r}$ and $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{r}$.

Soln: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{r} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial z} = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3 \quad \checkmark$

$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{r} = \hat{i}(0-0) + \hat{j}(0-0) + \hat{k}(0-0) = \vec{0} \quad \checkmark$

So, we yesterday we introduced that if f is a vector function, then the divergence of f is basically defined as a gradient of f sorry this nabla dot f and it is basically $\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z}$ where f is a vector function and it has three components f_1, f_2 and f_3 and each f_1, f_2, f_3 are functions of x, y and z all right.

Similarly the curl of f is defined as nabla cross product with f and we have calculated via the determinant what it would look like. So, in short I can write the formula. So, the formula would go like this i times $\frac{\partial f_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial z}$, then j times $\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x}$ plus k times $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y}$. You can be able to calculate with that with the help of that determinant. So, this is basically our how to say curl of a vector function f .

Now motivated from these 2, this how to say formulas or definitions, we will first start with our example one. So, let r is equals to $x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$. So, when I write \mathbf{i} cap so; that means, it is a unit vector all right and then find divergence of r and curl of r right. So, let us try to find. So, solution let us try to find divergence of r . So, divergence of r would go like this we know that from the formula r has 1 components; so, r_1, r_2, r_3 . So, I can be able to write this formula $\frac{\partial r_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial r_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial r_3}{\partial z}$ now r_1 is basically our x . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of x is 1 plus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of y is also 1 and $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of z is also 1. So, ultimately divergence of r is equals to 3 if r is given as this vector here.

Now, we will calculate the curl of r . So, if I calculate the curl of r then it will be, i times $\frac{\partial r_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial r_2}{\partial z}$. So, we just go through this formula here. So, $\frac{\partial r_3}{\partial y}$ so, this is basically our r_3 . So, I can write r_1, r_2 and r_3 just for our clarification, you really do not have to write r_1, r_2, r_3 at the bottom of these 3 variables. If you really want to, then you can say let r is equals to this where r_1 is equals to x , r_2 equals to y and r_3 cost result that you can do.

So, now, our r_3 is basically z so, $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of z is 0 minus our r_2 is y . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of y is again 0 plus j . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of x is 0 our r_3 is z and $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of z is 0 plus k times our r_2 is y . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of y is 0 minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of f_1 . So, a r_1 . So, r_1 is x so, this is again 0. So, 0 times i 0 times j 0 times k .

So, ultimately we will get a 0 vector. So that means, if r is equals to this vector here than in that case our divergence and curl would be given in this fashion. So, divergence is 3 and curl is 0. So, that is how we basically calculate this a divergence and curl let us let us consider a few more examples.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:27)

Ex. 2: If $\vec{f}(x, y, z) = x^2y\hat{i} - 2xz\hat{j} + 2yz\hat{k}$, then find
(i) $\text{div } \vec{f}$ (ii) $\text{curl } \vec{f}$ (iii) $\text{curl}(\text{curl } \vec{f})$

Solⁿ: (i) Here $f_1(x, y, z) = x^2y$, $f_2(x, y, z) = -2xz$ and $f_3(x, y, z) = 2yz$
 $\text{div } \vec{f} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{f} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-2xz) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(2yz)$
 $= 2xy + 0 + 2y = 2y(x+1)$

(ii) $\text{curl } \vec{f} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{f} = \hat{i} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(2yz) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(-2xz) \right) + \hat{j} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z}(x^2y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(2yz) \right) + \hat{k} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(-2xz) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x^2y) \right)$

So, just so we can be thorough in this thing. So, example let us say 2 and the example states that if our vector function f x, y, z is equals to x square y times i minus $2 x z$ times j plus $2 y z$ times k then find first divergence of f , then curl of f and then third one is curl of curl of f . So, the thing is here curl is basically curl of a vector function is again a vector quantity.

So, we can talk about its curl again. So, unless the quantity is a vector function is not unless the quantity is not a vector function, we cannot talk about its curl. But as soon as soon as the quantity becomes or a function becomes a vector function will not becomes if it is a vector function, then in that case we can always talk about its curl and that is what is that is what is happening in this case.

F is a vector function, but once we charge the curl it again the else a vector function and therefore, we can again charge curl on it which will again give us a vector function and we can again charge curl on it. So, as soon as long as the function or the I mean we have a vector function, we can always talk about its curl. However, in case of divergence, we cannot charge divergence again because the divergence of f would yield of scalar function

So, once we get a scalar function we can talk about its gradient, but we cannot talk about its divergence. So, what could happen is, when we charge divergence on a vector function, it would give us a scalar function and then we charge a gradient. And once we

charge the gradient, then it would become a vector function and then we can again charge gradient as a divergence and then it will again yield a scalar function.

So, divergence gradient divergence gradient and so, on; however, in case of curl every time we can charge a curl on it. So, these are some small aspects of vector calculus and I am pretty sure you may have got an idea that, how to deal with these operators all right. So, let us start calculating the first how to say divergence of f .

So, solution divergence of f or let me start by writing so just start with writing here. So, I am just writing here $f_1(x, y, z) = x^2$, $f_2(x, y, z) = -2xz$ and $f_3(x, y, z) = 2yz$ all right. So, I just wrote the 3 components just for our how to say seek. Now we have divergence of f , I can write it in terms of notation as well. So, this is $\nabla \cdot f$ and now in divergence, we can go back to the formula its $\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial f_3}{\partial z}$.

So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_1 is x^2 plus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of f_2 is minus of $2xz$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of f_3 which is basically $2y$. So, if I do $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$, then this is basically $2x$ and then here we do not have any y variables. So, the partial derivative would be 0 and here it would yield $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ so, $2y$. So, if I take $2y$ common and this will be $x + 1$ and that is the required divergence of f all right. So, this is what we obtained as a divergence of f .

Now, we can calculate the curl of f . So, curl of f I can write it as $\nabla \times f$. I prefer to write in terms of there is operators instead of writing in words. Now we have i times let's go back to the formula $\frac{\partial f_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial z}$. So, $\frac{\partial f_3}{\partial y}$. So, what is our f_3 ? f_3 is $2yz$ minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of in the formula $\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial z}$. So, what is our f_2 ? f_2 is minus of $2xz$ plus j times we have $\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial z}$; we have $\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial z}$.

So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of f_1 which is x^2 minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_3 . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_3 is basically $2y$ all right and then k times $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ k times $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_2 . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_2 is minus of $2xz$ minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of f_1 . So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of f_1 is x^2 all right. Now doing this partial derivatives is very simple and I leave that task up to the students.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:21)

$$\begin{aligned} &= (2z+2x)\hat{i} - 0\hat{j} + (-2z-x^2)\hat{k} \\ \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{f} &= 2(x+z)\hat{i} - (x^2+2z)\hat{k} \\ \text{(iii) } \text{Curl}(\text{curl } \vec{f}) &= \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{f}) \\ &= \vec{\nabla} \times [2(x+z)\hat{i} - (x^2+2z)\hat{k}] \\ &= \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

So, here at the end you will basically obtain your answer as 2 z plus 2 x times i minus 0 component of j plus minus of 2 z minus x square times k. So, ultimately we will obtain 2 x plus 2 z or we can take this to common. So, let us not write 2 here we can take 2 common times i minus of x square plus 2 z k. So, this is our required curl of f. So, I can write it as implication sign.

So, curl of f and our problem 3 is curl of curl of f right so; that means, we basically have nabla cross product with nabla cross f. So; that means, this is nothing, but nabla cross 2 of 2 times x plus z times i minus x square plus 2 z k. So, here we have to identify our f 1, f 2 and f 3 and then put everything then put everything back in this formula, and we would obtain our required result all right. So, I am leaving that task up to the students.

So, doing this is not complicated so, you can we can identify the 3 components and just follow the previous formula and that will give you the required result all right.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:02)

Ex. 2: Determine the constant a so that the following vector field is solenoidal: $\vec{v}(x, y, z) = (x+3y)\hat{i} + (y-2z)\hat{j} + (x+az)\hat{k}$.

Solⁿ: Here $v_1 = x+3y$, $v_2 = y-2z$, $v_3 = x+az$

$$\text{div. } \vec{v} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial z} = 1 + 1 + a = a+2.$$

Now if \vec{v} were a solenoidal then $\text{div } \vec{v} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow a+2=0 \Rightarrow a=-2.$$

For $a=-2$, \vec{v} is a solenoidal.

Now we will consider some a slightly different types of examples. So, let us start with them. So, here this says that determine determine the constant a so that the following vector field is solenoidal solenoidal. So, what is that? So, V_{xyz} equals to the given vector as x plus 3 times i plus y minus 2 z times j and x plus az times k .

So, we have to determine this a here so, that this vector field will be a solenoidal all right. So, this is our given vector field. Now we know that from the definition in the previous class that a vector field is solenoidal when divergence of V is equals to 0 so; that means, we have to make. So, we assume that the vector field is solenoidal and we make divergence of V equals to 0 and from there we have to find out that for what value of a that divergence of V equals to 0 actually occurs all right.

So, we basically solve for a equals to some constant and that will be the required how to say the answer or the required value of a for which this vector field is solenoidal. So, let us start with calculating the divergence of V . So, here we can again identify our 3 components V_1 is x plus 3 y V_2 x y z is y minus 2 z and V_3 x y z is x plus az . So, each component is a function of x y z . The correct way to write is actually V_1 of x y z all right ; however, you are allowed to write V_1 V_1 only as well, but the correct way to write is V_1 xyz because it is actually a function of x y z each component basically.

Now we calculate the divergence of V . So, divergence of V is gradient sorry nabla dot V and this will be $\text{del } V_1 \text{ del } x + \text{del } V_2 \text{ del } y + \text{del } V_3 \text{ del } z$. So, $\text{del } V_1 \text{ del } x$ would be

1, then $\text{del } V$ to $\text{del } y$ is again 1 and $\text{del } V$ 3 $\text{del } z$ is a so; that means, we have a plus 2. Now if we were a solenoidal solenoidal, then divergence of V must be equals to 0 because that that is a definition and now if divergence of V is equals to 0; that means, a plus 2 must be equal to 0. So, from here we will obtain a equals 2 minus 2. So, for a equals to minus 2 V is a solenoidal field is a solenoidal all right.

So, we start with the so, after calculating the versions of we will start with the assumption that we have a solenoidal field and then in that case divergence of V must be 0 and from there we calculate a equals to minus 2 all right. So, this is our required value for a all right. Now let us move let us move on to our next example.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:03)

Ex: Show that the following vector is irrotational.

$$\vec{V}(x, y, z) = (\sin y + z)\hat{i} + (x \cos y - z)\hat{j} + (x - y)\hat{k}.$$

Sol: Here $V_1(x, y, z) = \sin y + z$, $V_2(x, y, z) = x \cos y - z$, $V_3(x, y, z) = x - y$.

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{V} = \hat{i} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x - y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (x \cos y - z) \right] + \hat{j} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\sin y + z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - y) \right]$$

$$+ \hat{k} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x \cos y - z) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\sin y + z) \right]$$

$$= \hat{i} [-1 + 1] + \hat{j} [1 - 1] + \hat{k} [\cos y - \cos y] = 0\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 0\hat{k} = \vec{0}$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{V} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{V}$ is an irrotational.

So, our next example says that show that the following vector so that the following vector is irrotational. So, our given vector is $V \times y \times z$. So, this is our given vector function all right $\sin y$ plus z times i plus $x \cos y$ minus of z times j plus x minus y times k . So, we have a given vector function or a vector field and we have to show that this vector function is actually irrotational. So, from the definition of irrotational which we learnt in the previous lecture, our vector function is irrotational when that curl of that vector function is 0.

So, here we have to show that curl of V is equals to 0 and then it will be a irrotational field. So, let us first calculate or identify the 3 components and then we calculate curl of f all right. So, here our V_1 our $V_1 \times y \times z$ is $\sin y$ plus z then $V_2 \times y \times z$ is $x \cos y$ minus z and

$V = x^2y + z^2$ is x^2y all right. Now we calculate the curl of v . So, curl of V is $\nabla \times V$ and from the formula, we have let us go back to the formula. So, it says $\frac{\partial V_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial V_2}{\partial z}$. So, we can come back to the form of $\frac{\partial V_3}{\partial y}$ by $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ so, $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2y + z^2)$, V_3 is $x^2y + z^2$ is x^2 minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (x^2y + z^2)$. So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (x^2y + z^2)$ is $x^2 \cos y$ minus of z . We can use the third bracket the bigger bracket actually times j and then we have $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of then we have $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ sorry $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of f_1 .

So, f_1 is $\sin y + z$ minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_3 ; f_3 is $x^2y + z^2$ plus k times $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of f_2 ; f_2 is $x^2 \cos y - z$ minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of f_1 ; f_1 is $\sin y + z$ is not it all right. So, now, when we calculate so, $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of x is 0 because x will be treated as a constant and $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of y will be minus 1 minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of $x^2 \cos y$ would be 0 because there is no z here and minus of minus; so, this will be plus $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of z is again 1.

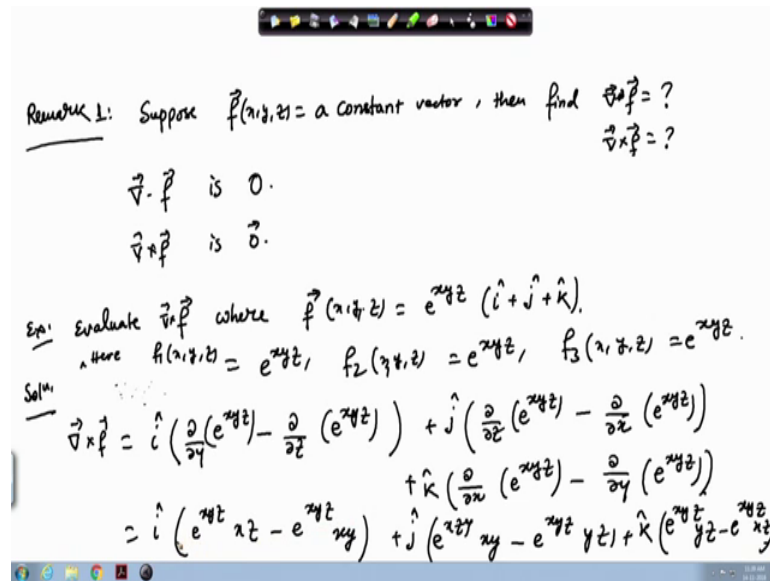
Now j times $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ of $\sin y + z$. So, $\sin y$ is constant when we are differentiating with respect to z and partial derivative of z with respect to z would be one minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of x^2 is 1 and $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of y is 0 and k times $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of $x^2 \cos y$ will be $\cos y$ and $\cos y$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ of z would be 0 minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of $\sin y$ will be $\cos y$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of that would be 0.

So, basically we have $0 \ 0 \ 0$ so; that means, we have 0 times i plus 0 times j plus 0 times k . So, ultimately we obtain a 0 vector. So, from here, we have curl of V curl of V equals to 0 vector and this implies that V is an irrotational vector field. So, if the curl of V equals to 0 , then the vector field is said to be irrotational and we proved that the given vector function V is actually a irrotational.

So, all you have to do is remember these formulas that if the divergence of V is 0 , then it is solenoidal and if curl of V is 0 , then it is a irrotational and you just have to verify or if you were asked to calculate the value of a certain parameter for which it is either divergence or a either solenoidal or irrotational, then you basically do what we did in the previous example all right.

Now, let us just consider a few more examples; some remarks are also to be addressed.

(Refer Slide Time: 22:26)



So, let us consider our first remark suppose $f(x,y,z)$ equals to a constant vector all right; a constant vector, then find gradient sorry divergence divergence of f and curl of f . So, the thing is solution or the thing is if f is a constant, then in that case a constant vector then in that case when you charge this in nabla operator nabla operator has partial derivatives $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$. Now how it has been charged depending on whether you are charging the divergence or whether you are charging the curl, but whatever that vector function is it will always be differentiated with a with respect to xy and z .

So, if your f is a constant function I mean, it will always be differentiated with respect to xy and z and the minute you differentiate every component of that constant vector, it will lead to a 0 vector because a constant vector differentiation of it will always be 0. So, regardless whether you are calculating divergence or curl, the answer would always be 0.

In the first case it will be scalar 0 and in the second case, it would be a 0 vector because in case of curl we get a vector whose every component is actually a 0. So, it is very simple to see and I am leaving this result up to the students. So, divergence of f is actually 0 and curl of f is actually a 0 vector. So, these 2 things are quite straightforward to see and I am leaving these up to the students all right.

Next is so next we consider an example. So, next we consider an example. Evaluate curl of curl f where our $f(x,y,z)$, it is a little bit interesting function; it is a slightly interesting

function. So, e^{xyz} to the power $x y z$ i plus j plus k so, here we have to calculate the curl of f .

So, let us go to the solution. So, curl of f we know that the formula. So, here our 3 components are e^{xyz} e^{xyz} e^{xyz} because they are all same. So, I can write here ah; here $f_1 = x y z$. So, here $f_1 = x y z$ equals to e^{xyz} $f_2 = x y z$ equals to e^{xyz} and similarly $f_3 = x y z$ is equals to e^{xyz} . So, now, we calculate curl of f . So, curl of f would be i times it would be $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_3 - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_2$ j times $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_1 - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_3$ k times $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_2 - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_1$ which is again e^{xyz} .

So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_3$ is e^{xyz} minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_2$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_2$ would be e^{xyz} , then j times $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_1$. So, $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_1$ is e^{xyz} minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_3$; f_3 is e^{xyz} plus k times $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_2$ which is e^{xyz} minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_1$ which is again e^{xyz} .

So, now, when we differentiate e^{xyz} with respect to $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ so, this will yield e^{xyz} times again we differentiate this one. So, times $x z$ minus e^{xyz} times this will be xy plus j times e^{xyz} and then this will be xy minus $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_3$. So, this will be e^{xyz} yz plus k times e^{xyz} to the power $x y z$. This will be yz minus e^{xyz} and this will be $x z$. So, now, we will take it to the power x , why is that common? So, here it will be x times e^{xyz} .

(Refer Slide Time: 27:35)

$$= e^{xyz} [x(j-z)\hat{i} + y(x-z)\hat{j} + z(y-x)\hat{k}]$$

So, this will be basically e to the power $x y z$ common and then we have x times y minus z times i plus y times z minus x times j and this will be z times x minus y times k . Did I do it correctly? y common then this will be x minus z and that will be y minus x all right.

So, this will be y minus x this will be y minus x and this will be x minus z . So, let us correct it. So, x minus z and y minus x all right; x minus z and y minus x so, this is the required curl of f for this given vector function f . Now today we try to cover as many examples as possible. We will probably continue with our examples in our next class and I look forward to it.

Thank you for attention.