

SUMMARY / OVERVIEW OF ...

HANDOUT 3

VECTOR CALCULUS (continued)

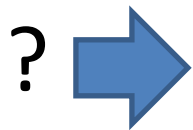
- Evaluating triple products
- Applications of the cross-product
- Differentiation of vectors
 - time variation
 - space variation
 - partial differentiation

and ...

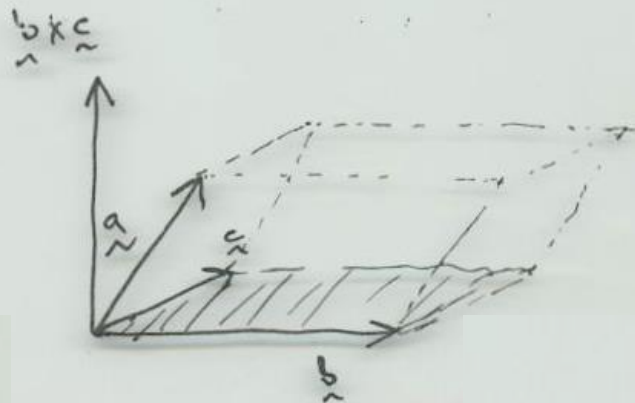
- Grad
 - definition
 - direction derivatives
 - unit normal vectors
- Flux and solid angle

SCALAR TRIPLE PRODUCT

$\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) \equiv \pm$ volume of parallelepiped
with edges $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$



When does the volume of the parallelepiped equal zero?



$$\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = 0$$

\rightarrow when \vec{a} lies in the plane of \vec{b} and \vec{c}
i.e. \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} are "COPLANAR"

H3
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bot

REVIEW OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS (part three) ...

Applications of the cross-product

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1. Set of scales (moments and torques): $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{r} \times \boldsymbol{F}$
2. Rotation of a rigid body: $\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{r}$

Time-varying Vectors

$$\underline{\boldsymbol{v}}(t) = (v_1(t), v_2(t), v_3(t))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \underline{\boldsymbol{v}} = \frac{dv_1}{dt} \underline{\boldsymbol{i}} + \frac{dv_2}{dt} \underline{\boldsymbol{j}} + \frac{dv_3}{dt} \underline{\boldsymbol{k}}$$

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[tangential to the curve swept out by $\boldsymbol{v}(t)$]

Spatial Derivative of $\boldsymbol{v}(x) = [v_1(x), v_2(x), v_3(x)]$

$$\frac{d\underline{\boldsymbol{v}}}{ds} = \frac{dv_1}{ds} \underline{\boldsymbol{i}} + \frac{dv_2}{ds} \underline{\boldsymbol{j}} + \frac{dv_3}{ds} \underline{\boldsymbol{k}}$$

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Derivatives of Products (product rules) ...

In fact, if we let $u = t$ (time) or $u = x$ (space), then it's straightforward to show that:

$$\frac{d}{du} (\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}) = \underline{a} \cdot \frac{d\underline{b}}{du} + \frac{d\underline{a}}{du} \cdot \underline{b}$$

$$\frac{d}{du} (\underline{a} \times \underline{b}) = \underline{a} \times \frac{d\underline{b}}{du} + \frac{d\underline{a}}{du} \times \underline{b}$$

Partial Derivatives of Vectors

2D vector space $\underline{V}(x,y) = (v_1(x,y), v_2(x,y))$

For example, $\frac{\partial \underline{V}}{\partial x} = \left(\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial x} \right)$

$$= \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} \underline{i} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial x} \underline{j}$$

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3D Vector Field $\mathbf{V}(x,y,z) = v_1 \mathbf{i} + v_2 \mathbf{j} + v_3 \mathbf{k}$ (where components are functions of space)

For example, $\frac{\partial \underline{V}}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \underline{i} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} \underline{j} + \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial y} \underline{k}$

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We also have **Product Rules** for Partial Differentiation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \vec{b} + \frac{\partial \vec{a}}{\partial x} \cdot \vec{b}$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \vec{b} + \frac{\partial \vec{a}}{\partial x} \times \vec{b}$$

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GRAD (THE VECTOR GRADIENT OF
A SCALAR FUNCTION)

$$\text{grad } \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \vec{k}$$

Note: **different** partial derivatives here !

where

$\phi(x, y, z)$ defines a scalar field

$$\text{grad } \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

$$\text{grad } \phi = \left\{ \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\} \phi$$



grad itself is a **VECTOR DIFFERENTIAL OPERATOR**

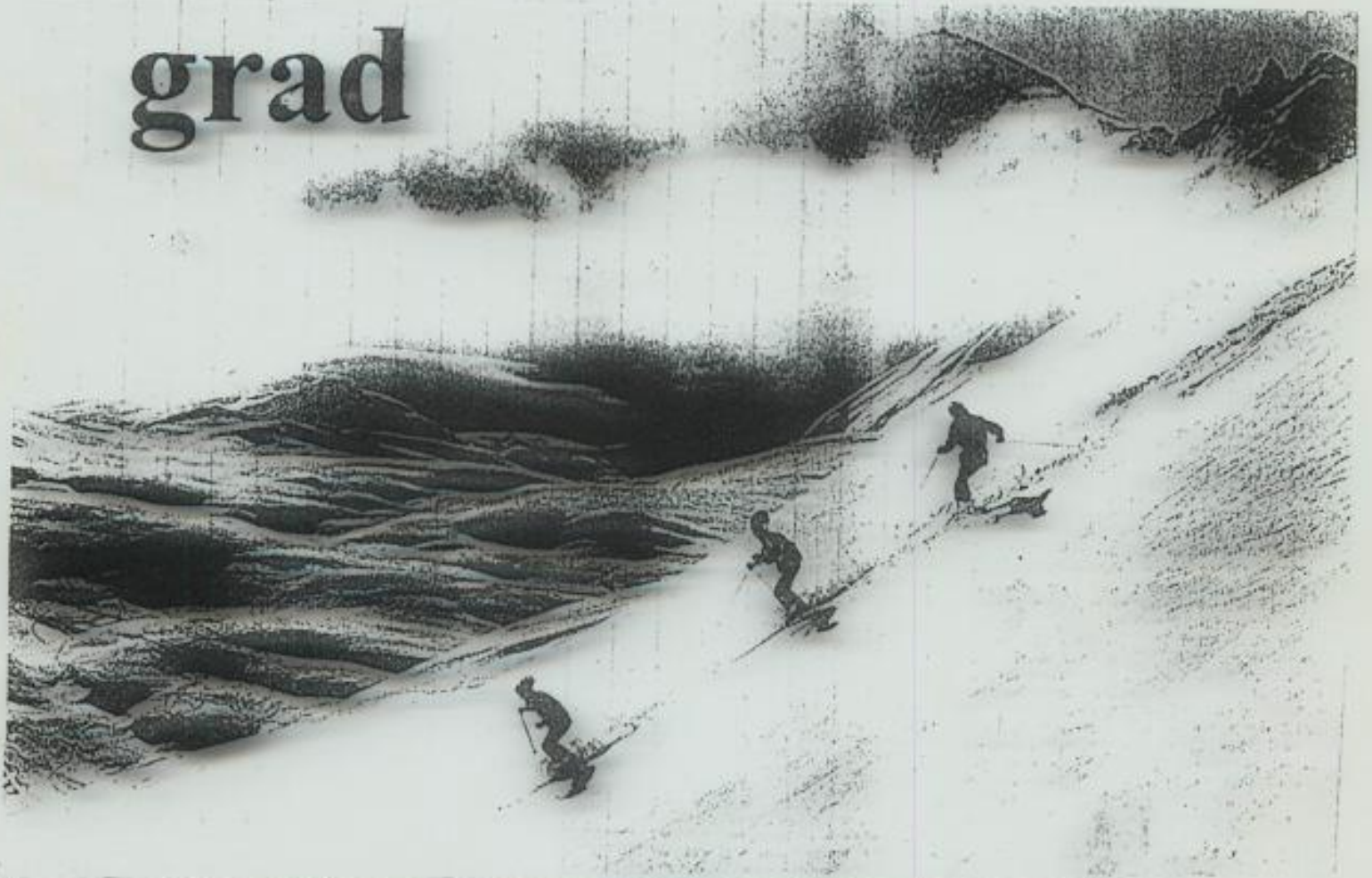
Other notation (called “nabla” or “del” = $\nabla = \text{grad}$)

i.e. $\text{grad } \phi = \nabla \phi$

where $\nabla = \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$

grad operates on a scalar field to give a vector field

grad

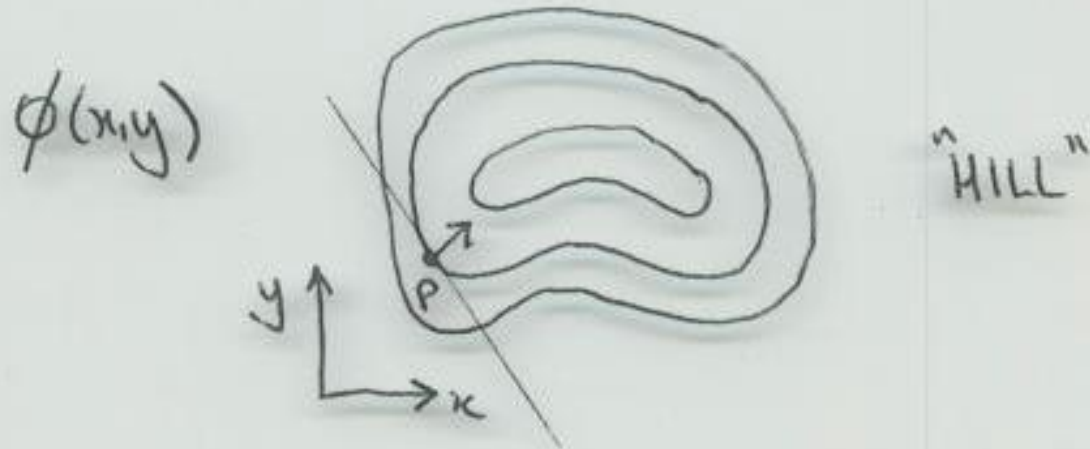


$$\text{grad } \phi \equiv \nabla \phi = \hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

→ magnitude and direction of maximum rate of change of ϕ with respect to space

Scalar field ϕ . e.g. height $h(x,y)$, temperature $T(x,y,z)$,
gravitational/electric potential $V(x,y,z)$

2D



- contours = lines of constant ϕ
- gradient = max. rate of change of ϕ ,
 \perp to contour (points "uphill")

grad ϕ is VECTOR SUM OF GRADIENT COMPONENTS (along x , y and z)

p81 Example.

Ex If scalar field $\phi(x,y,z) = x^2yz^3 + xy^2z^2$
then determine the (vector) gradient, i.e. $\text{grad } \phi$,
at the point $P(1,3,2)$.

Answer. 1. Calculate:

$$\text{grad } \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

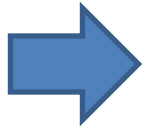
which gives a vector field (**all** the gradient vectors across x, y and z)

$$\therefore \nabla \phi = (2xyz^3 + y^2z^2) \hat{i} + (x^2z^3 + 2xy^2z) \hat{j} + (3x^2yz^2 + 2xy^2z) \hat{k}$$

2. Substitute for (x,y,z) to get mag. & dir. of greatest rate of spatial change of ϕ at point P .

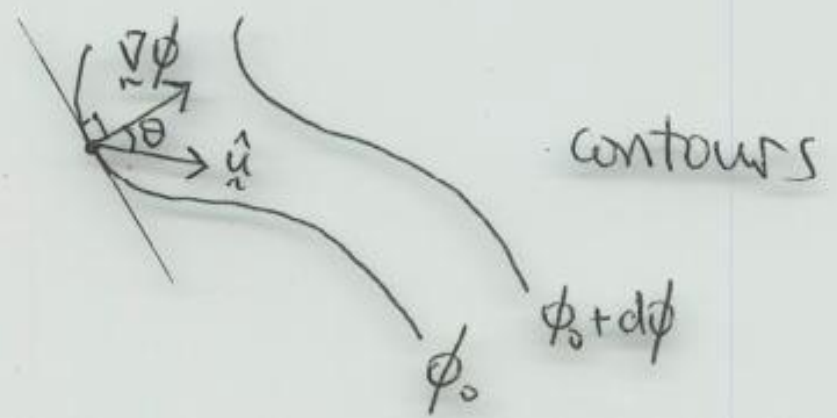
At point $P(1,3,2)$, $x=1, y=3, z=2$,
giving $\nabla \phi = 84 \hat{i} + 32 \hat{j} + 72 \hat{k}$.

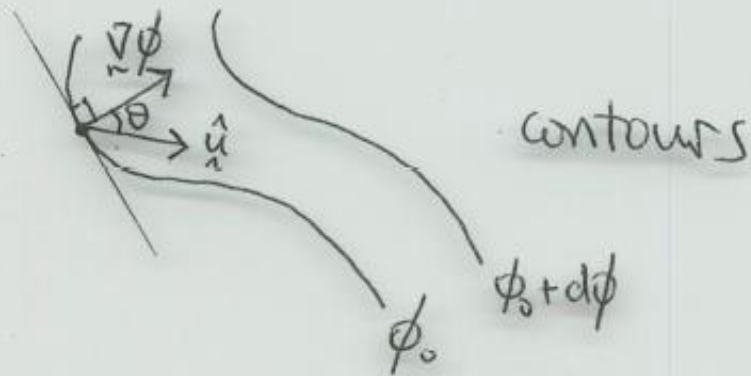
$\text{grad } \phi$ points in the direction of greatest (positive) change ϕ at any particular point.



How does ϕ change in other directions?

Consider a 2D scalar field $\phi(x,y)$ and two contours along which ϕ has constant values ϕ_0 and $\phi_0 + d\phi$...





\hat{u} = unit vector in any direction

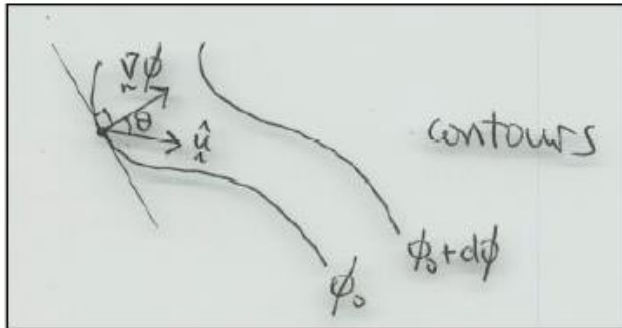
ds = small distance along \hat{u} (s is a new coordinate: along \hat{u})

$\frac{d\phi}{ds}$ = rate of change of ϕ along \hat{u} = DIRECTION DERIVATIVE


$$= \nabla\phi \cdot \hat{u} = |\nabla\phi| |\hat{u}| \cos\theta \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{component of} \\ \nabla\phi \text{ along } \hat{u} \end{array} \right)$$


$$\frac{d\phi}{ds} = |\nabla\phi| \cos\theta, \quad \text{THE PROJECTION OF} \\ \nabla\phi \text{ ALONG } \hat{u}.$$

DIRECTION DERIVATIVE



$$\frac{d\phi}{ds} = \text{rate of change of } \phi \text{ along } \hat{u}$$
$$= \nabla \phi \cdot \hat{u} = |\nabla \phi| |\hat{u}| \cos \theta$$

$\frac{d\phi}{ds}$ is  maximum along $\nabla \phi$
(i.e. $\theta = 0$)

 zero along a contour
of constant ϕ
(i.e. $\theta = 90^\circ$)

Worked and physical examples of ∇ appear in the main text

Physical examples

Ex A skier goes fastest downhill in the $-\nabla h$ direction, where $h(x,y) = \text{height}$,
 i.e. in direction towards maximum lower gravitational potential

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Ex Electrostatics ...

$V = \text{scalar potential field}$
 $\vec{E} = \text{vector electric field}$

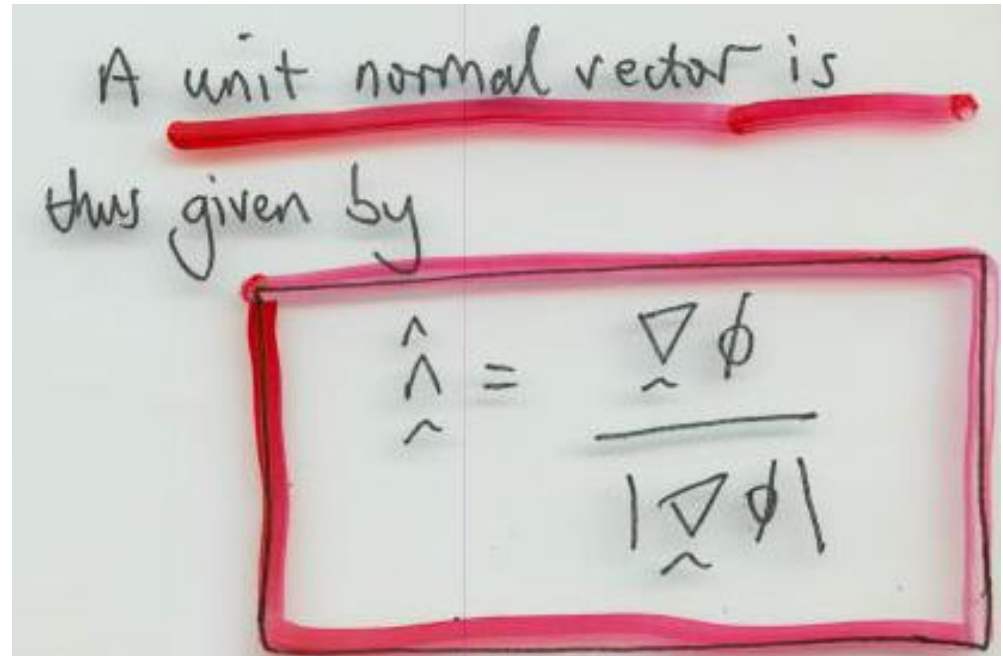
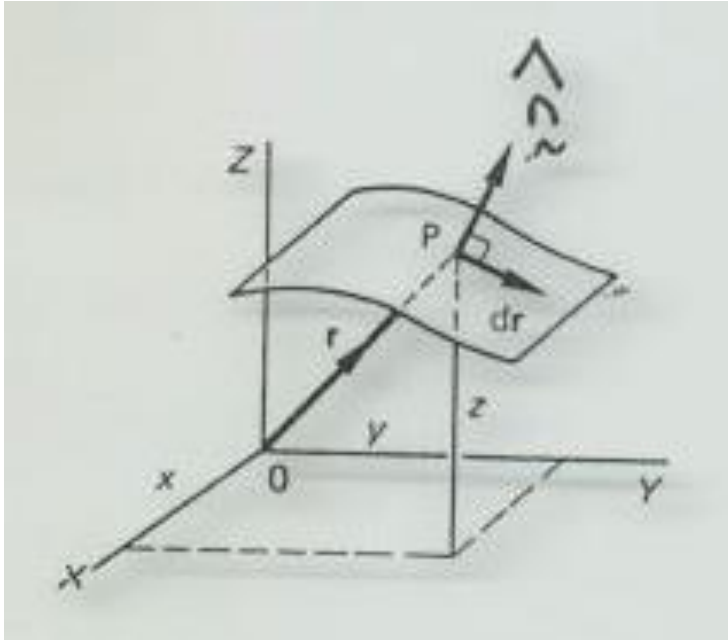
In one dimension x , $E = - \frac{dV}{dx}$

In three dimensions x, y, z , $\vec{E} = - \nabla V$

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Force acts to give maximum decrease in electrostatic potential

Geometry. Unit Normal Vectors to a
Surface with equation $\phi(x, y, z) = \text{const.}$



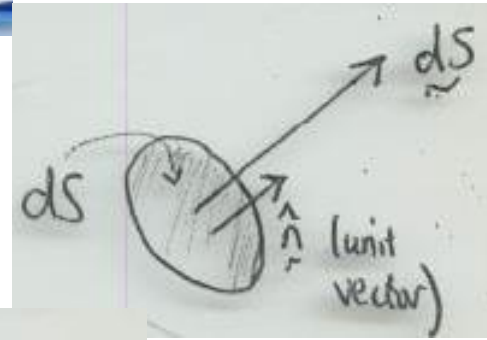
(gives a vector field of all the unit normals)

Consider surface as representing a 2D contour surface.
grad ϕ is perpendicular to every 1D contour on the surface.
And, therefore, is perpendicular to the surface itself.

Flux of a vector over a surface

Surface (vector area) element $d\vec{S}$ is

$$d\vec{S} = \hat{n} dS$$



Let \vec{V} be any vector defined over dS .

If \vec{V} constant over dS then

$$\text{THE FLUX OF } \vec{V} \text{ OVER } dS = V dS \cos \theta = \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{S}$$

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ie. $\vec{V} \parallel \hat{n} dS \rightarrow \text{max. flux}$

$\vec{V} \perp \hat{n} dS \rightarrow \text{zero flux}$

Then ...

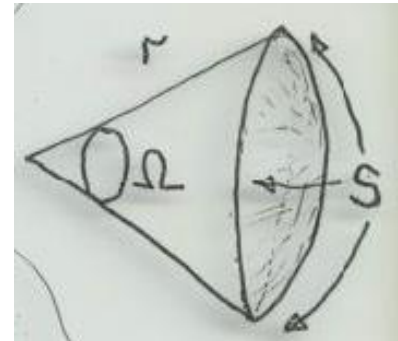
Flux of \vec{V} over larger surface S is the sum of the fluxes over all the constituent dS elements of S

ie. FLUX OF \vec{V} OVER $S = \int_S \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{S}$

Surface integral = double integral

SOLID ANGLE

solid angle, $\Omega = \frac{S}{r^2}$



S is surface area subtended at a sphere of radius r .

Units of solid angle are **steradians** (it's a generalisation of the 2D angle measure of radians).

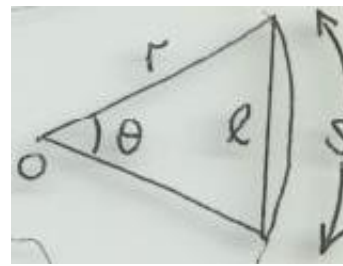
Full 2D angle = 2π radians. Full 3D (solid angle) = 4π steradians.

Small angle elements

2D angle:

$$\theta = \frac{S}{r^2}$$

(radians)



arc length = s
chord length = l

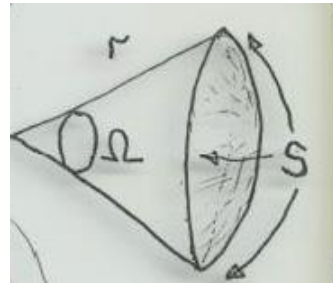
small angle

$$d\theta = ds/r = dl/r$$

arc element length = ds
chord element length = dl

3D (solid) angle:

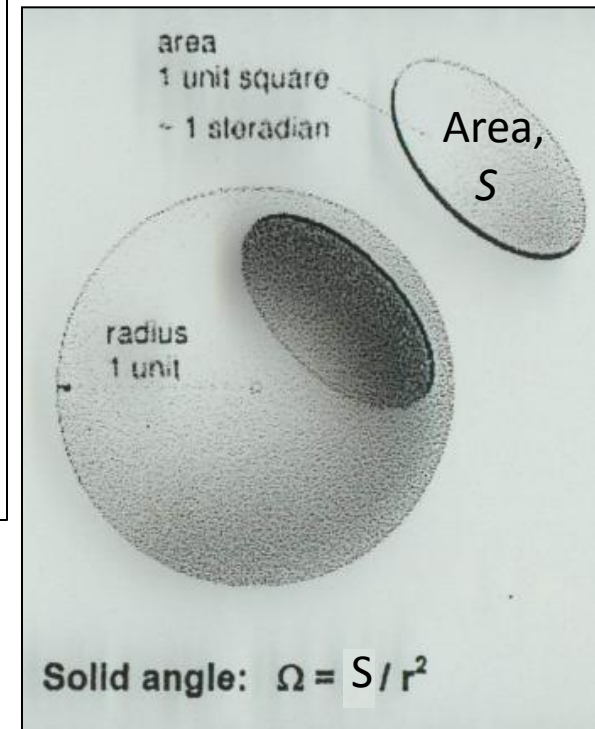
$$\Omega = \frac{S}{r^2}$$



small (solid) angle

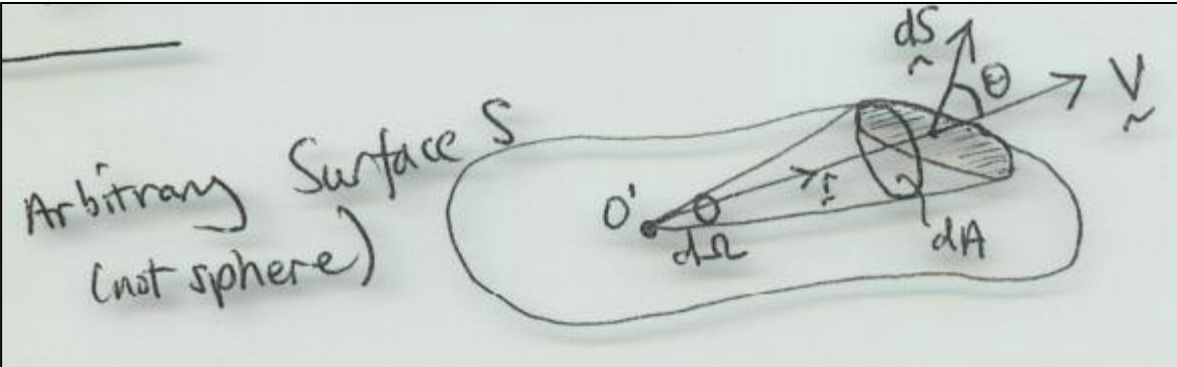
$$d\Omega = \frac{dS}{r^2} = \frac{dA}{r^2}$$

where dS is area of surface element,
 dA is area of flat plane across
the “mouth” of the cone.



Further topics in notes

1. Flux of vector field \mathbf{V} over an arbitrary closed surface S that contains co-ordinate origin O' (uses solid angle elements)



2. Total current I is the flux of the current density \mathbf{J} :

$$I = \int_S \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

3. Conventions and Notations

(a) For a closed surface, $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ and $d\mathbf{S}$ point OUTWARDS

(b) For a closed surface:

For a closed curve: