

## Using the Del operator

Let us introduce the real valued vector function (or 3 variable scalar function) type  $F : V_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for which  $F(\langle x, y, z \rangle) = F(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}$ , and the vector valued vector function (shortly vector function) type  $\vec{w} : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$ , for which  $\vec{w}(\langle x, y, z \rangle) = \vec{w}(x, y, z) = \langle F_1(x, y, z), F_2(x, y, z), F_3(x, y, z) \rangle$ , where  $F_i(x, y, z)$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 3$ ) are of the first type.

We define three operations using a formal vectors, called the vector Nabla, Del operator or Nabla operator, denoted  $\vec{\nabla} = \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right\rangle$ .

The gradient of a 3 variable scalar function  $F : V_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for which  $F(\langle x, y, z \rangle) = F(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}$ , is the vector we obtain by multiplying the vector  $\vec{\nabla}$  by the scalar  $F$ . In other words  $\overrightarrow{grad} F = F \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \left\langle \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \right\rangle$ .

The divergence of a vector function  $\vec{w} : V_3 \rightarrow V_3$ , for which  $\vec{w}(\langle x, y, z \rangle) = \vec{w}(x, y, z) = \langle F_1(x, y, z), F_2(x, y, z), F_3(x, y, z) \rangle$  by the following "scalar product"  $div \vec{w} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{w} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial z}$ .

The curl (rotation) of a vector is  $curl \vec{w} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{w} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ F_1 & F_2 & F_3 \end{vmatrix}$