

## Mathematics Involved in Electromagnetic Theory

### Gradient of a scalar function:

If  $\phi(x, y, z)$  be a scalar function then  $\hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$  is called the gradient of the scalar function  $\phi$ .

And is denoted by  $\text{grad } \phi$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus, } \quad \text{grad } \phi &= \hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \\ \text{grad } \phi &= \left( \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \phi(x, y, z) \\ \text{grad } \phi &= \vec{\nabla} \phi \end{aligned}$$

### Geometrical Meaning of Gradient, Normal:

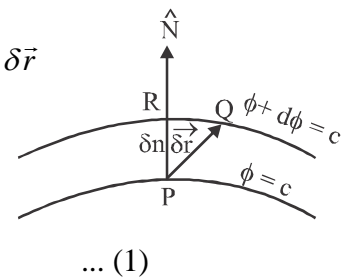
If a surface  $\phi(x, y, z) = c$  passes through a point P. The value of the function at each point on the surface is the same as at P. Then such a surface is called a level surface through P. For example, if  $\phi(x, y, z)$  represents potential at the point P, then equipotential surface  $\phi(x, y, z) = c$  is a level surface.

Two level surfaces can not intersect.

Let the level surface pass through the point P at which the value of the function is  $\phi$ . Consider another level surface passing through Q, where the value of the function is  $\phi + d\phi$ .

Let  $\vec{r}$  and  $\vec{r} + \delta\vec{r}$  be the position vector of P and Q then  $\overline{PQ} = \delta\vec{r}$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot d\vec{r} &= \left( \hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz) \\ &= \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} dz = d\phi \end{aligned}$$



If Q lies on the level surface of P, then  $d\phi = 0$

Equation (1) becomes,  $\vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$ , then  $\vec{\nabla} \phi$  is perpendicular to  $d\vec{r}$  (tangent)

Hence,  $\vec{\nabla} \phi$  is normal to the surface  $\phi(x, y, z) = c$

### The Divergence:

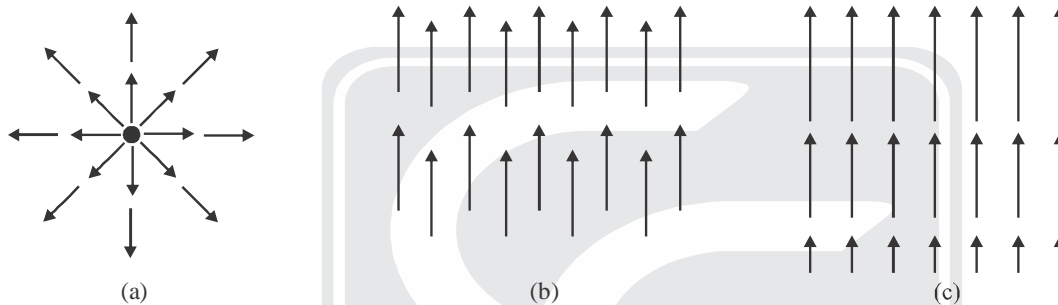
From the definition of  $\nabla$  we construct the divergence:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} &= \left( \hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot (v_x \hat{x} + v_y \hat{y} + v_z \hat{z}) \\ &= \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}\end{aligned}$$

Observe that the divergence of a vector function  $\vec{v}$  is itself a scalar  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v}$

### Geometrical interpretation :

The name divergence is well chosen, for  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v}$  is a measure of how much the vector  $\vec{v}$  spreads out (diverges) from the point in question. For example, the vector function in figure (a) has a large (positive) divergence (if the arrows pointed in, it would be a large negative divergence), the function in figure (b) has zero divergence, and the function in figure (c) again has a positive divergence.



### The Curl:

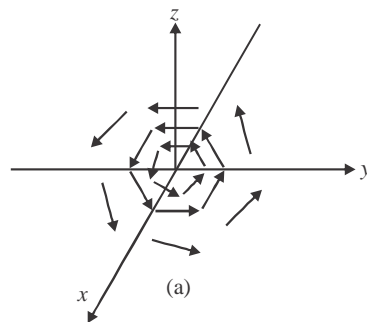
From the definition  $\nabla$  we construct the curl:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \end{vmatrix} = \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial z} \right) + \hat{y} \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} \right) + \hat{z} \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)$$

Notice that the curl of a vector function  $\vec{v}$  is, like any cross product, a vector. Curl of a scalar does not exist.

### Geometrical interpretation :

The name curl is also well chosen, for  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$  is a measure of how much the vector  $\vec{v}$  'curls around' the point in question. Thus the three functions in figure (a) have a substantial curl, pointing in the z-direction, as the natural right-hand rule would suggest.





**Product rules:**

- (i)  $\vec{\nabla}(fg) = f \vec{\nabla} g + g \vec{\nabla} f$
- (ii)  $\vec{\nabla}(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}) = \vec{A} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B}) + \vec{B} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) + (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{B} + (\vec{B} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{A}$ ,
- (iii)  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (f\vec{A}) = f(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}) + \vec{A} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} f)$
- (iv)  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \vec{B} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) - \vec{A} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B})$ ,
- (v)  $\vec{\nabla} \times (f\vec{A}) = f(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) - \vec{A} \times (\vec{\nabla} f)$
- (vi)  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = (\vec{B} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{A} - (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{B} + \vec{A}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}) - \vec{B}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A})$

**Problem-1:** Find the gradients of the following functions:

- (a)  $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^3 + z^4$     (b)  $f(x, y, z) = x^2 y^3 z^4$     (c)  $f(x, y, z) = e^x \sin(y) \ln(z)$

**Problem-2:** Let 'r' be the separation vector from a fixed point  $(x', y', z')$  to the point  $(x, y, z)$  and let 'r' be its length. Show that

- (a)  $\vec{\nabla}(r^2) = 2\vec{r}$     (b)  $\vec{\nabla}(1/r) = -\hat{r}/r^2$     (c) what is the general formula  $\vec{\nabla}(r^n)$ ?

**Problem-3:** Calculate the divergence of the following vector functions

- (a)  $\vec{v}_a = x^2 \hat{x} + 3xz^2 \hat{y} - 2xz \hat{z}$     (b)  $\vec{v}_b = xy \hat{x} + 2yz \hat{y} + 3zx \hat{z}$
- (c)  $\vec{v}_c = y^2 \hat{x} + (2xy + z^2) \hat{y} + 2yz \hat{z}$

**Problem-4:** The vector function,  $\vec{v} = \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}$  compute its divergence.

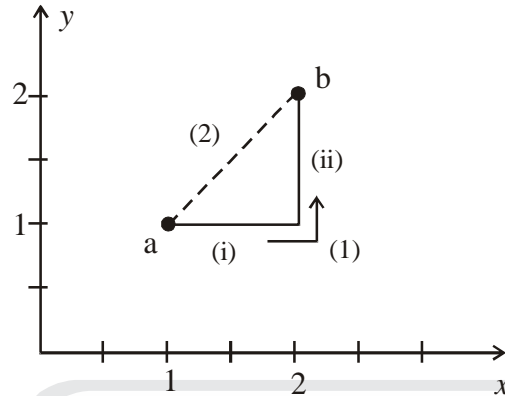
The gradient, the divergence, and the curl are the only first derivatives we can make with  $\nabla$ ; by applying  $\nabla$  twice we can construct five species of second derivatives. The gradient  $\nabla T$  is a vector, so we can take the divergence and curl of it.

- (1) Divergence of gradient:  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} T) = \nabla^2 T$     (Laplacian of T)
- (2) Curl of gradient:  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} T) = 0$
- (3) Gradient of divergence:  $\vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v})$     (This is not same as laplacian)
- (4) Divergence of curl:  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}) = 0$
- (5) Curl of curl:  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}) = \vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v}) - \nabla^2 \vec{v}$

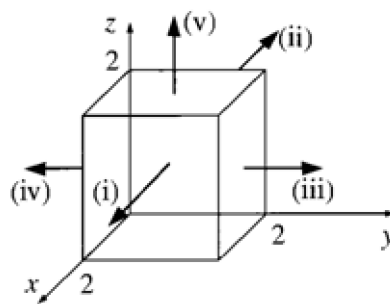
**Problem-5:** Calculate the Laplacian of the following functions:

- (a)  $T_a = x^2 + 2xy + 3z + 4$     (b)  $T_b = \sin x \sin y \sin z$
- (c)  $T_c = e^{-5x} \sin 4y \cos 3z$     (d)  $v = x^2 \hat{x} + 3xz^2 \hat{y} - 2xz \hat{z}$

**Problem-6:** Calculate the line integral of the function  $\vec{v} = y^2\hat{x} + 2x(y+1)\hat{y}$  from the point  $a = (1, 1, 0)$  to the point  $b = (2, 2, 0)$ , along the paths (1) and (2) in the following figure. What is  $\oint \vec{v} \cdot d\vec{l}$  for the loop that goes from 'a' to 'b' along (1) and returns to 'a' along (2)?



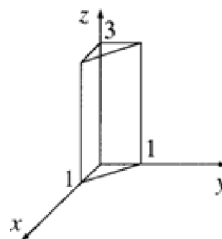
**Problem-7:** Calculate the surface integral of  $\vec{v} = 2xz\hat{x} + (x+2)\hat{y} + y(z^2-3)\hat{z}$  over five sides (excluding the bottom) of the cubical box (side 2) in figure. Let "upward and outward" be the positive direction, as indicated by the arrows.



**Problem-8:** Calculate the volume integral of  $T = xyz^2$  over the prism in figure.

**Soln.** You can do the three integrals in any order. Let's do 'x' first: it runs from 0 to  $(1-y)$ ; then y(it goes from 0 to 1); and finally z (0 to 3):

$$\int T dt = \int_0^3 z^2 \left\{ \int_0^1 y \left[ \int_0^{1-y} x dx \right] dy \right\} dz = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^3 z^2 dz \int_0^1 (1-y)^2 y dy = \frac{1}{2} \times 9 \times \frac{1}{12} = \frac{3}{8}$$



**Problem-9:** Calculate the line integral of the function  $\vec{v} = x^2\hat{x} + 2yz\hat{y} + y^2\hat{z}$  from the origin to the point  $(1, 1, 1)$  by three different routes:

(a)  $(0, 0, 0) \rightarrow (1, 0, 0) \rightarrow (1, 1, 0) \rightarrow (1, 1, 1)$

(b)  $(0,0,0) \rightarrow (0,0,1) \rightarrow (0,1,1) \rightarrow (1,1,1)$

(c) The direct straight line.

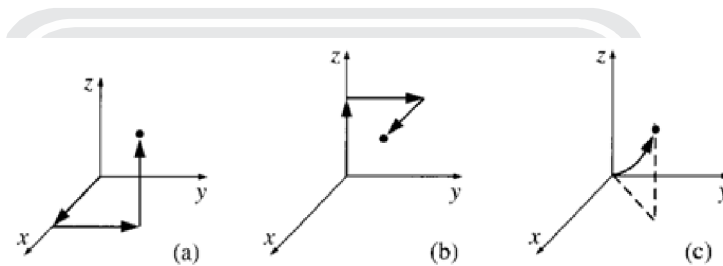
**Example-10:** Let  $T = xy^2$ , and take point 'a' to be the origin  $(0, 0, 0)$  and 'b' the point  $(2, 1, 0)$ . Check the fundamental theorem for gradients.

**Problem-11:** Check the fundamental theorem for the gradients, using  $T = x^2 + 4xy + 2yz^3$ , the points  $a = (0,0,0)$ ,  $b = (1,1,1)$  and the three paths in figures (a), (b) and (c) are

(a)  $(0,0,0) \rightarrow (1,0,0) \rightarrow (1,1,0) \rightarrow (1,1,1)$

(b)  $(0,0,0) \rightarrow (0,0,1) \rightarrow (0,1,1) \rightarrow (1,1,1)$

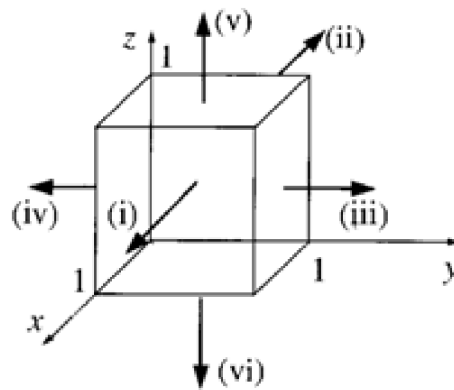
(c) The parabolic path  $z = x^2; y = x$



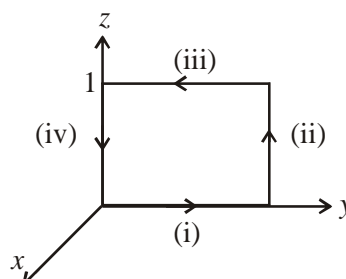
**Problem-12:** Check the divergence theorem using the function

$$\vec{v} = y^2\hat{x} + (2xy + z^2)\hat{y} + (2yz)\hat{z}$$

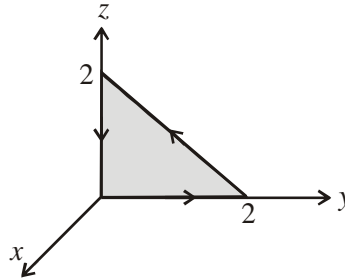
and the unit cube situated at the origin has shown in the following figure.



**Problem-13:** Suppose  $\vec{v} = (2xz + 3y^2)\hat{y} + (4yz^2)\hat{z}$ . Check Stokes' theorem for the square surface shown in figure.



**Problem-14:** Test Stokes' theorem for the function  $\vec{v} = (xy)\hat{x} + (2yz)\hat{y} + (3zx)\hat{z}$ , using the triangular shaded area of figure.



**Problem-15:** Evaluate the integral

$$\int_0^{\infty} x e^{-x} dx$$

Formulas for gradient divergence and curl for spherical coordinates.

**Gradient:** 
$$\vec{\nabla}T = \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi}$$

**Divergence:** 
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 v_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta v_\theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

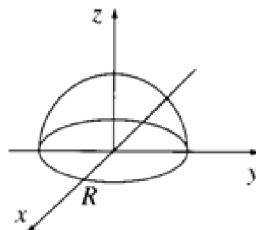
**Curl:** 
$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta v_\phi) - \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right] \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r v_\phi) \right] \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r v_\theta) - \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} \right] \hat{\phi}$$

**Laplacian:** 
$$\nabla^2 T = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \phi^2}$$

**Problem-16:** Compute the divergence of the function

$$\vec{v} = (r \cos \theta) \hat{r} + (r \sin \theta) \hat{\theta} + (r \sin \theta \cos \phi) \hat{\phi}$$

Check the divergence theorem for this function, using as your volume the inverted hemispherical bowl of radius  $R$ , resting on the  $xy$ -plane and centered at the origin (Figure)



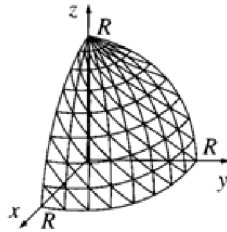
**Problem-17:** Find the formulas for  $r, \theta, \phi$  in terms of  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ .

**Problem-18:** Express the unit vector,  $\hat{r}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\phi}$  in terms of  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ .

**Problem-19:** Express the cylindrical unit vectors  $\hat{s}, \hat{\phi}, \hat{z}$  in terms of  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ . Invert your formulas to get  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$  in terms of  $\hat{s}, \hat{\phi}, \hat{z}$ .

**Problem-20:** Check the divergence theorem for the function

$$\vec{v} = r^2 \cos \theta \hat{r} + r^2 \cos \phi \hat{\theta} - r^2 \cos \theta \sin \phi \hat{\phi}$$

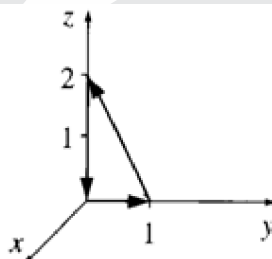


using as your volume one octant of the sphere of radius R. Make sure you include the entire surface.

**Ans.**  $\pi R^4/4$ .

**Problem-21:** Compute the line integral of

$$\vec{v} = 6x\hat{x} + yz^2\hat{y} + (3y + z)\hat{z}$$



along the triangular path shown in figure. Check your answer using Stoke's theorem.

**Ans.**  $8/3$ .

**Coordinate System:**

Coordinate system	$\hat{u}_1$	$\hat{u}_2$	$\hat{u}_3$	$h_1$	$h_2$	$h_3$	$ds$	$dv$
Cartesian	$\hat{x}$	$\hat{y}$	$\hat{z}$	1	1	1	$dx dy$ or $dy dz$ or $dz dx$	$dx dy dz$
Spherical	$\hat{r}$	$\hat{\theta}$	$\hat{\phi}$	1	$r$	$r \sin \theta$	$r d\theta r \sin \theta d\phi$	$r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi$
Cylindrical	$\hat{\rho}$	$\hat{\theta}$	$\hat{z}$	1	$\rho$	1	$r d\theta dz$	$\rho d\rho d\theta dz$

(i)  $\nabla = \frac{1}{h_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} \hat{e}_1 + \frac{1}{h_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} \hat{e}_2 + \frac{1}{h_3} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \hat{e}_3$

(ii)  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} (h_2 h_3 A_1) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} (h_1 h_3 A_2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} (h_1 h_2 A_3) \right]$

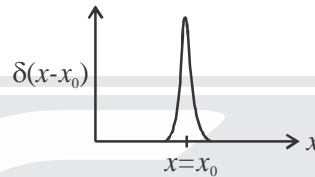
$$(iii) \bar{\nabla} \times \bar{A} = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \begin{vmatrix} h_1 \hat{e}_1 & h_2 \hat{e}_2 & h_3 \hat{e}_3 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} & \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \\ h_1 A_1 & h_2 A_2 & h_3 A_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(iv) \bar{\nabla}^2 \phi = \frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial u_1} \left( \frac{h_2 h_3}{h_1} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_1} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_2} \left( \frac{h_1 h_3}{h_2} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_2} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial u_3} \left( \frac{h_1 h_2}{h_3} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial u_3} \right) \right]$$

### Dirac-delta function:

#### (A) One dimensional delta function:

$$\delta(x-x_0) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x \neq x_0 \\ \infty & \text{for } x = x_0 \end{cases}$$



#### Properties of delta function:

(1) The delta function is even  $\delta(-x) = \delta(x)$

(2)  $\delta(ax) = \frac{1}{|a|} \delta(x)$  ( $a \neq 0$ )

(3)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) dx = 1$

(4)  $\int_a^b f(x) \delta(x-x_0) dx = \begin{cases} f(x_0) & \text{if } a < x_0 < b \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$

(5)  $\int \delta(a-x) \delta(x-b) dx = \delta(a-b)$

(6)  $\delta[(x-a)(x-b)] = \frac{1}{|a-b|} [\delta(x-a) + \delta(x-b)]$  ( $a \neq b$ )

(7)  $\delta(x^2 - a^2) = \frac{1}{2|a|} [\delta(x-a) + \delta(x+a)]$  ( $a \neq 0$ )

(8)  $\int_a^b f(x) \delta^n(x-x_0) dx = (-1)^n f^n(x_0)$   $a < x_0 < b$

#### (B) Three dimensional delta function:

(1) The three dimensional form delta function in cartesian coordinates is

$$\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) = \delta(x-x_0) \delta(y-y_0) \delta(z-z_0)$$

(2) In spherical coordinate

$$\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \delta(r-r_0) \delta(\theta-\theta_0) \delta(\phi-\phi_0)$$