

# VECTOR OPERATORS — DIV, GRAD, CURL.

FAMILIAR WITH  $df = \left(\frac{df}{dx}\right) \cdot dx$  HOW RAPIDLY A FN VARIES W/  $x$

$dT = \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\right) \cdot dx + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial y}\right) \cdot dy + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial z}\right) \cdot dz$  SEVERAL VARIABLES

IF WE THINK ABOUT SCALAR PRODUCTS — LOOKS LIKE

$$dT = \underbrace{\left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \hat{z} \right)}_{\text{VARIATION OF T}} \cdot \underbrace{\left( dx \hat{x} + dy \hat{y} + dz \hat{z} \right)}_{\text{LINE INCREMENT}}$$

$$= \vec{\nabla} T \cdot d\vec{e} \rightarrow \text{SCALAR}$$

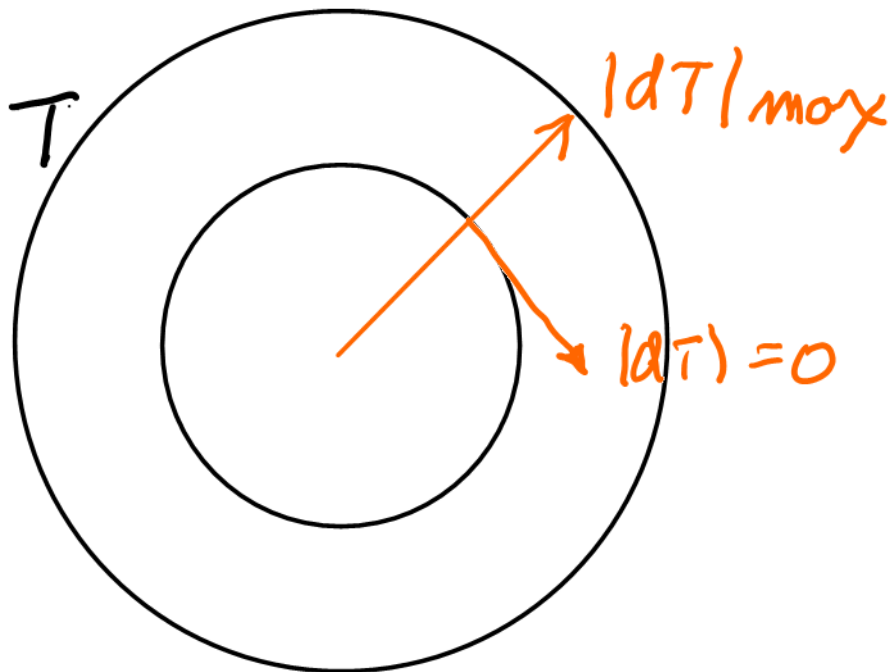
$\vec{\nabla} T$  IS GRADIENT

$$\vec{\nabla} T = \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \hat{z} \quad \swarrow \text{OF T}$$

$\bar{\nabla} T \rightarrow$  GRADIENT — VECTOR (BECAUSE OF UNIT VECTORS)

$$dT = \bar{\nabla} T \cdot d\bar{e} = |\bar{\nabla} T| |d\bar{e}| \cos \theta$$

- MAXIMUM RATE OF CHANGE OF  $T \rightarrow \cos \theta = 1$
- GRADIENT  $\bar{\nabla} T$  POINTS IN DIRECTION OF MAXIMUM INCREASE IN  $T$
- MAGNITUDE  $|\bar{\nabla} T|$  GIVES SLOPE (RATE OF INCREASE) ALONG MAXIMUM DIRECTION.



IF  $\bar{\nabla} T = 0$  AT  $(x, y, z)$

$dT = 0$  FOR SMALL DISPLACEMENTS

MAXIMUM, MINIMUM OR

SADDLE POINT.

STATIONARY POINT

# DEL OPERATOR $\nabla$

LOOKS LIKE AN ANCIENT  
ASSYRIAN HARD  $\rightarrow$  "NABLA"  $\therefore$

GRADIENT LOOKS LIKE VECTOR  $\times$  SCALAR

$$\nabla^T = \left( \hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)^T$$

$\nabla$  IS NOT A VECTOR — IT IS A VECTOR OPERATOR

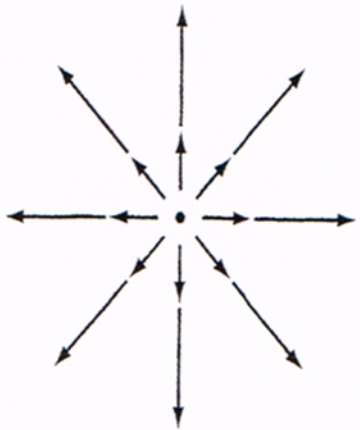
IT ACTS ON A FUNCTION

3 WAYS  $\nabla$  CAN ACT

- ON A SCALAR FUNCTION  $T$   $\nabla^T T$  GRADIENT
- DOT PRODUCT ON VECTOR FN  $\bar{V}$   $\nabla \cdot \bar{V}$  DIVERGENCE
- VECTOR PRODUCT ON VECTOR FN  $\bar{V}$   $\nabla \times \bar{V}$  CURL

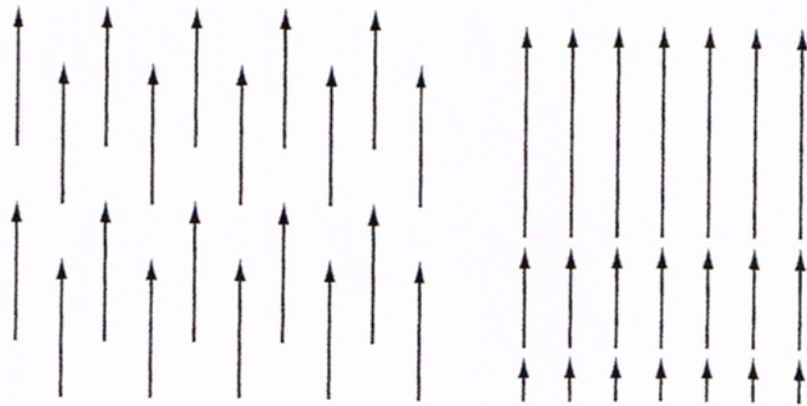
# DIVERGENCE $\nabla \cdot \vec{v}$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = \left( \hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot \left( v_x \hat{x} + v_y \hat{y} + v_z \hat{z} \right)$$
$$= \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \right) \quad \leftarrow \text{SCALAR } \nabla \cdot \vec{v}$$



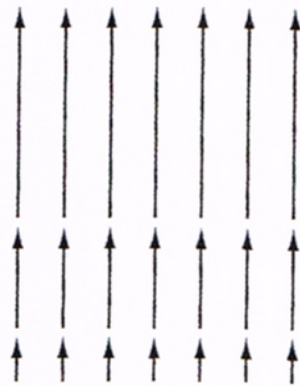
(a)

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} > 0$$



(b)

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$



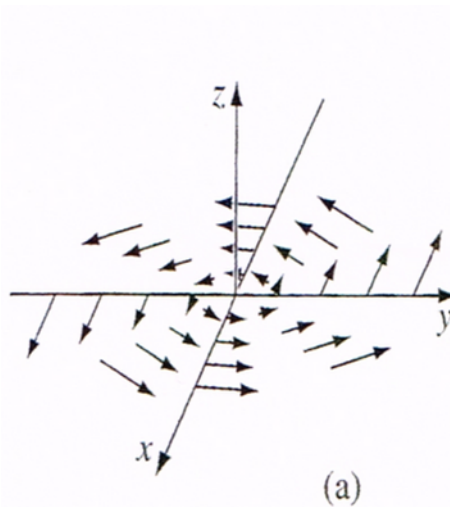
(c)

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

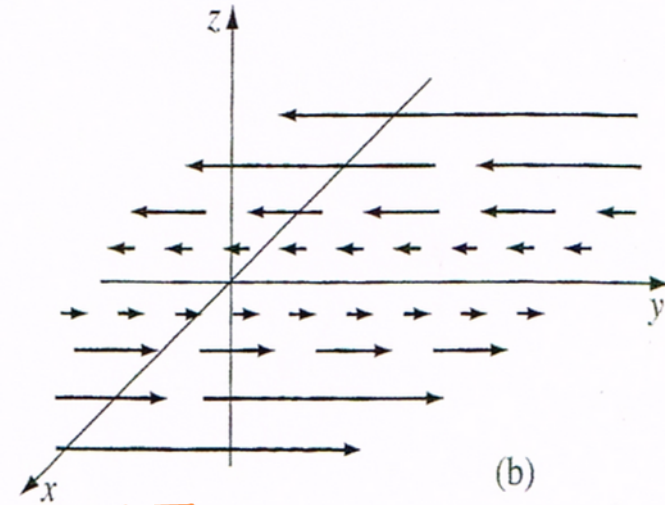
A MEASURE OF HOW MUCH A VECTOR FUNCTION DIVERGES FROM A POINT

# CURL $\nabla \times \vec{v}$

$$\nabla \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \end{vmatrix}$$



$$\nabla \times \vec{v} \neq 0$$



$$\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$$

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial z} \right) - \hat{y} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} \right) + \hat{z} \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial z} \right) + \hat{y} \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} \right) + \hat{z} \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)$$

VECTOR FUNCTION - A MEASURE OF HOW MUCH  
A VECTOR FIELD ROTATES  
AROUND A POINT

$\nabla \rightarrow$  DERIVATIVES  $\rightarrow$  BEHAVES LIKE "NORMAL"  
CALCULUS

### PRODUCT RULES

$$\frac{d}{dx} (f + g) = \frac{df}{dx} + \frac{dg}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (kf) = k \frac{df}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (f \cdot g) = f \frac{dg}{dx} + g \frac{df}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{f}{g} \right) = \frac{g \frac{df}{dx} - f \frac{dg}{dx}}{g^2}$$

SIMILARLY  $\rightarrow$

$$\bar{\nabla}(f+g) = \bar{\nabla}f + \bar{\nabla}g ; \bar{\nabla} \cdot (\bar{A} + \bar{B}) = (\bar{\nabla} \cdot \bar{A}) + (\bar{\nabla} \cdot \bar{B})$$

$$\bar{\nabla} \times (\bar{A} + \bar{B}) = (\bar{\nabla} \times \bar{A}) + (\bar{\nabla} \times \bar{B})$$

$$\bar{\nabla}(kf) = k\bar{\nabla}f, \bar{\nabla} \cdot (k\bar{A}) = k\bar{\nabla} \cdot \bar{A}, \bar{\nabla} \times (k\bar{A}) = k(\bar{\nabla} \times \bar{A})$$

PRODUCT RULES A BIT MORE COMPLEX

— 2 WAYS TO CONSTRUCT A SCALAR

$$fg$$
$$\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B}$$

— 2 WAYS TO MAKE A VECTOR

$$f\bar{A}$$

$$\bar{A} \times \bar{B}$$

} 6 PRODUCT RULES

## PRODUCT RULES:

TWO FOR GRADIENTS:

$$\nabla(fg) = f \nabla g + g \nabla f$$

$$\nabla(\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B}) = \bar{A} \times (\nabla \times \bar{B}) + \bar{B} \times (\nabla \times \bar{A}) + (\bar{A} \cdot \nabla) \bar{B} + (\bar{B} \cdot \nabla) \bar{A}$$

TWO FOR DIVERGENCES:

$$\nabla \cdot (f\bar{A}) = f(\nabla \cdot \bar{A}) + \bar{A} \cdot (\nabla f)$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) = \bar{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \bar{A}) - \bar{A} \cdot (\nabla \times \bar{B})$$

TWO FOR CURLS:

$$\nabla \times (f\bar{A}) = f(\nabla \times \bar{A}) - \bar{A} \times (\nabla f)$$

$$\nabla \times (\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) = (\bar{B} \cdot \nabla) \bar{A} - (\bar{A} \cdot \nabla) \bar{B} + \bar{A} (\nabla \cdot \bar{B}) - \bar{B} (\nabla \cdot \bar{A})$$



PROOFS OF PREVIOUS (SELF EVIDENT)

JUST COME FROM RULES FOR ORDINARY DERIVATIVES

$$\begin{aligned} \oint \bar{\nabla} \cdot (f \bar{A}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f A_x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (f A_y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (f A_z) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} A_x + f \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial x} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} A_y + f \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial y} \right) + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} A_z + f \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial z} \right) \\ &= (\bar{\nabla} f) \cdot \bar{A} + f (\bar{\nabla} \cdot \bar{A}) \quad \leftarrow \end{aligned}$$

ALSO HAVE 3 QUOTIENT RULES FOR

$$\bar{\nabla} \left( \frac{f}{g} \right), \quad \bar{\nabla} \left( \frac{\bar{A}}{g} \right), \quad \bar{\nabla} \times \left( \frac{\bar{A}}{g} \right)$$

↳ SEE TEXT

JUST LIKE NORMAL CALCULUS CAN TAKE DERIVATIVES  
OF DERIVATIVES  $\rightarrow$  2<sup>nd</sup> DERIVATIVES

1) DIV GRAD  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} T)$   $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\text{VECTOR})$

2) CURL GRAD  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} T)$   $\vec{\nabla} \times (\text{VECTOR})$

3) GRAD DIV  $\vec{\nabla} (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v})$   $\vec{\nabla} (\text{SCALAR})$

CURL  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$  IS A VECTOR  $\rightarrow$  2 POSSIBILITIES

4) DIV CURL  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v})$

5) CURL CURL  $\vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v})$

THESE ARE ALL POSSIBILITIES

$\hookrightarrow$  NOT ALL OF THEM ARE USEFUL

LOOK AT THEM IN DETAIL  $\rightarrow$

$$1) \bar{\nabla} \cdot (\bar{\nabla} T) = \left( \hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \cdot \left( \hat{x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\hat{x} \cdot \hat{x} = 1, \quad \hat{x} \cdot \hat{y} = \hat{x} \cdot \hat{z} = 0$$

$$\bar{\nabla} \cdot (\bar{\nabla} T) = \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} = \nabla^2 T \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{LAPLACIAN} \\ \text{SCALAR} \end{array}$$

CAN EXTEND THE MEANING OF  $\nabla^2$  TO A VECTOR  
 $\nabla^2 \bar{V}$  - VECTOR QUANTITY WHOSE  $x$ -COMP  
 IS LAPLACIAN OF  $v_x$  etc.

$$\nabla^2 \bar{V} \equiv (\nabla^2 v_x) \hat{x} + (\nabla^2 v_y) \hat{y} + (\nabla^2 v_z) \hat{z}$$

$$2) \quad \text{CURL GRAD} = 0 \quad \text{ALWAYS} \quad \left. \vphantom{\text{CURL GRAD}} \right\}$$

$$\quad \quad \quad \nabla \times (\nabla T) = 0 \quad \text{ALWAYS}$$

$$\nabla T = \hat{x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla T) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \partial/\partial x & \partial/\partial y & \partial/\partial z \\ \partial T/\partial x & \partial T/\partial y & \partial T/\partial z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z \partial y} \right) - \hat{y} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z \partial x} \right)$$

$$+ \hat{z} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x \partial y} - \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y \partial x} \right) = 0$$

LOOK AT  $(\bar{\nabla} T) \times (\bar{\nabla} S)$

$$\bar{\nabla} T = \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \hat{z}$$

$$\bar{\nabla} S = \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial S}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \hat{z}$$

$$(\bar{\nabla} T) \times (\bar{\nabla} S) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \partial T / \partial x & \partial T / \partial y & \partial T / \partial z \\ \partial S / \partial x & \partial S / \partial y & \partial S / \partial z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \frac{\partial S}{\partial y} \right) + \dots$$

$\neq 0$

3)  $\nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{v})$  RARELY OCCURS

$\nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{v})$  NOT SAME AS LAPLACIAN

$$\nabla^2 \vec{v} = (\nabla \cdot \nabla) \vec{v} \neq \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{v})$$

BRACKETS!  
!

4) DIV CURL  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{v}) = 0$  ALWAYS

$$\nabla \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial z} \right) - \hat{y} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$+ \hat{z} \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\nabla} \cdot (\bar{\nabla} \times \bar{v}) &= \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial x \partial y} - \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial x \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial y \partial x} + \cancel{\frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y \partial z}} \\ &+ \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial z \partial x} - \cancel{\frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial z \partial y}} \quad \text{etc} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$5) \bar{\nabla} \times (\bar{\nabla} \times \bar{v})$$

$$\bar{\nabla} = \hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} ;$$

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

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

LET'S JUST DO x-COMPONENT ← LIFE IS SHORT!

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial y \partial x} - \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial z \partial x} \right) + \dots \quad (1)$$

$$\bar{\nabla} (\bar{\nabla} \cdot \bar{v}) = \left( \hat{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$= \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial x \partial z} \right) + \hat{y} \dots \quad (2)$$



$$(-\nabla^2 \bar{v}) = -\hat{x} (\nabla^2 v_x) - \hat{y} \dots$$

$$= -\hat{x} \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2} - \hat{y} \dots \quad (3)$$

$$(2) - (3) = \hat{x} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial x \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

CAN WRITE (1) AS :

$$\hat{x} \left( \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial y \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial z \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2}}_{\bar{\nabla}(\bar{\nabla} \cdot \bar{v})_x} - \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial z^2}}_{(-\nabla^2 \bar{v})_x} \right)$$

VECTOR QUANTITY WHOSE  
X COMPONENT IS LAPLACIAN  
OF  $v_x$