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In vector calculus, divergence is a vector operator that produces a scalar field, giving the quantity of a vector field's source at each point. More technically, the divergence represents the volume density of the outward flux of a vector field from an infinitesimal volume around a given point. Divergence definition, the act, fact, or amount of diverging: a divergence in opinion. See more. This article includes a list of references, but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient inline citations. Please help to improve this article by introducing more precise citations. What does it mean to take the derivative of a function whose input lives in multiple dimensions? What about when its output is a vector? Here we go over many different ways to extend the idea of a derivative to higher dimensions, including partial derivatives, directional derivatives, the gradient, vector derivatives, divergence, curl, etc.