Exercise 19

If you have a CAS that plots vector fields (the command is fieldplot in Maple and PlotVectorField or VectorPlot in Mathematica), use it to plot

$$\mathbf{F}(x,y) = (y^2 - 2xy)\mathbf{i} + (3xy - 6x^2)\mathbf{j}$$

Explain the appearance by finding the set of points (x, y) such that $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \mathbf{0}$.

Solution

Using VectorPlot in Mathematica gives the following picture.



Factor the given vector function.

$$\mathbf{F}(x,y) = y(y-2x)\mathbf{i} + 3x(y-2x)\mathbf{j}$$

 $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \mathbf{0}$ along the line y = 2x.