Line Integral

Introduction:

Let $\overrightarrow{F}_{(x, y, z)}$ be a vector function and a curve AB.

Line integral of a vector function \overrightarrow{F} along the curve AB is defined as integral of the component of \overrightarrow{F} along the tangent to the curve AB.

Component of \overrightarrow{F} along a tangent PT at P

= Dot product of $\stackrel{\rightarrow}{F}$ and unit vector along PT

$$= \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \frac{\overrightarrow{dr}}{ds} \left(\frac{\overrightarrow{dr}}{ds} \text{ is a unit vector along tangent PT} \right)$$

Line integral = $\sum \vec{F} \cdot \frac{\vec{dr}}{ds}$ from A to B along the curve

$$\therefore \text{ Line integral} = \int_{c} \left(\overrightarrow{F} \cdot \frac{\overrightarrow{dr}}{ds} \right) ds = \int_{c} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{dr} ds$$

Note (1) Work. If \vec{F} represents the variable force acting on a particle along arc AB, then the total work done = $\int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr}$

(2) Circulation. If \vec{v} represents the velocity of a liquid then (\vec{v}, \vec{dr}) is called the circulation of \vec{V} round the closed curve \vec{c} .

of V round the closed curve c.

If the circulation of V round every closed curve is zero then V is said to be irrotational there.

(3) When the path of integration is a closed curve then notation of integration is ∮ in place of ∫.

Example 1. If a force $\overrightarrow{F} = 2x^2y\hat{i} + 3xy\hat{j}$ displaces a particle in the xy-plane from (0, 0) to (1, 4) along a curve $y = 4x^2$. Find the work done.

Solution. Work done
$$= \int_{c} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{dr}$$

$$= \int_{c} (2 x^{2} y \hat{i} + 3 x y \hat{j}) \cdot (dx \hat{i} + dy \hat{j})$$

$$= \int_{c} (2 x^{2} y dx + 3 x y dy)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \overrightarrow{r} = x \hat{i} + y \hat{j} \\ \overrightarrow{dr} = dx \hat{i} + dy \hat{j} \end{bmatrix}$$

Putting the values of y and dy, we get

$$= \int_0^1 \cdot \left[2 x^2 (4x^2) dx + 3x (4x^2) 8x dx \right]$$

$$= 104 \int_0^1 x^4 dx = 104 \left(\frac{x^5}{5} \right)_0^1 = \frac{104}{5}$$
Ans.

(Nagpur University, Summer 2001)

Example 2. Evaluate $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr}$ where $\vec{F} = x^2 \hat{i} + xy\hat{j}$ and C is the boundary of the square in the plane z = 0 and bounded by the lines x = 0, y = 0, x = a and y = a.

Solution.
$$\int_{C} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = \int_{OA} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} + \int_{AB} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} + \int_{BC} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} + \int_{CO} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr}$$

Here

$$\overrightarrow{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}, \quad \overrightarrow{d}r = dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}, \quad \overrightarrow{F} = x^2\hat{i} + xy\hat{j}$$

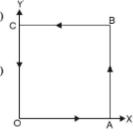
On OA, y = 0

$$\vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = x^2 dx + xy dy$$

$$\vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = x^2 dx$$

$$\int_{QA} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = \int_0^a x^2 dx = \left[\frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^a = \frac{a^3}{3} \quad ...(2)$$

$$\vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = aydy$$



$$\int_{Ab} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = \int_{0}^{a} ay dy = a \left[\frac{y^{2}}{2} \right]_{0}^{a} = \frac{a^{3}}{2} \qquad ...(3)$$

On BC, y = a

$$\therefore dy = 0$$

⇒ (1) becomes

$$\overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{dr} = x^2 dx$$

$$\int_{BC} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = \int_{a}^{0} x^{2} dx = \left[\frac{x^{3}}{3} \right]_{a}^{0} = \frac{-a^{3}}{3} \qquad ...(4)$$

On CO, x = 0, (1) becomes

$$\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r} \cdot \vec{dr} = 0$$

$$\int_{CO} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{dr} = 0 \qquad ...(5)$$

On adding (2), (3), (4) and (5), we get
$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr} = \frac{a^3}{3} + \frac{a^3}{2} - \frac{a^3}{3} + 0 = \frac{a^3}{2}$$
 Ans.

Example 3. A vector field is given by

$$\overrightarrow{F} = (2y+3)\hat{i} + xz\hat{j} + (yz-x)\hat{k}. \text{ Evaluate } \int_{C} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{dr} \text{ along the path } c \text{ is } x = 2t,$$

$$y = t, z = t^3 \text{ from } t = 0 \text{ to } t = 1.$$
(Nagpur University, Winter 2003)

Solution. $\int_{C} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C} (2y+3) dx + (xz) dy + (yz-x) dz$

Since
$$x = 2t$$
 $y = t$ $z = t^3$

$$\therefore \frac{dx}{dt} = 2 \qquad \frac{dy}{dt} = 1 \qquad \frac{dz}{dt} = 3t^2$$

 $= \int_0^1 (2t+3) (2 dt) + (2t) (t^3) dt + (t^4 - 2t) (3t^2 dt) = \int_0^1 (4t+6+2t^4+3t^6-6t^3) dt$ $= \left[4\frac{t^2}{2} + 6t + \frac{2}{5}t^5 + \frac{3}{7}t^7 - \frac{6}{4}t^4\right]_0^1 = \left[2t^2 + 6t + \frac{2}{5}t^5 + \frac{3}{7}t^7 - \frac{3}{2}t^4\right]_0^1$ $= 2+6+\frac{2}{5}+\frac{3}{7}-\frac{3}{2}=7.32857.$ Ans.

Example 4. If
$$\vec{F} = 2y\hat{i} - z\hat{j} + x\hat{k}$$
, evaluate $\int_{C} \vec{F} \times \vec{dr}$ along the curve

$$x = \cos t$$
, $y = \sin t$, $z = 2 \cos t$ from $t = 0$ to $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$. (Nagpur University, winter 2002)

Solution. We have,
$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{dr} = dx \,\hat{i} + dy \,\hat{j} + dz \,\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{F} \times \vec{dr} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2y & -z & x \\ dx & dy & dz \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (-zdz - xdy) \,\hat{i} - (2z^2 - x^2 + 2z^2) + (2z^2 - x^2 + 2z^2 - x^2 + 2z^2 - x^2 + 2z^2 - x^2 - x^2 + 2z^2 - x^2 - x$$

$$= (-zdz - xdy)\hat{i} - (2y dz - xdx)\hat{j} + (2ydy + zdx)\hat{k}$$

$$= [-2\cos t (-2\sin t) dt - \cos t (\cos t) dt]\hat{i}$$

$$-[2 \sin t (-2 \sin t) dt - \cos t (-\sin t) dt]\hat{j}$$

+
$$[2 \sin t (\cos t) dt + 2 \cos t (-\sin t) dt] \hat{k}$$

$$= [(4\cos t \sin t - \cos^2 t)\hat{i} + (4\sin^2 t - \cos t \sin t)\hat{j}]dt$$

Example 5. The acceleration of a particle at time t is given by

$$\vec{a} = 18\cos 3t\,\hat{i} - 8\sin 2t\,\hat{j} + 6t\,\hat{k}.$$

If the velocity \overrightarrow{v} and displacement \overrightarrow{r} be zero at t = 0, find \overrightarrow{v} and \overrightarrow{r} at any point t.

Solution. Here,
$$\vec{a} = \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{dt^2} = 18 \cos 3t \hat{i} - 8 \sin 2t \hat{j} + 6t \hat{k}$$
.

On integrating, we have

$$\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \hat{i} \int 18 \cos 3t \, dt + \hat{j} \int -8 \sin 2t \, dt + \hat{k} \int 6t \, dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \qquad \vec{v} = 6 \sin 3t \, \hat{i} + 4 \cos 2t \, \hat{j} + 3t^2 \, \hat{k} + \vec{c} \qquad \dots(1)$$

At t = 0, $\overrightarrow{v} = \overrightarrow{0}$

Putting t = 0 and $\overrightarrow{v} = 0$ in (1), we get

$$\vec{0} = 4\hat{j} + \vec{c} \implies \vec{c} = -4\hat{j}$$

$$\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = 6\sin 3t \,\hat{i} + 4(\cos 2t - 1)\,\hat{j} + 3t^2\hat{k}$$

Again integrating, we have

$$\vec{r} = \hat{i} \int 6 \sin 3t \, dt + \hat{j} \int 4 (\cos 2t - 1) \, dt + \hat{k} \int 3t^2 \, dt$$

$$\vec{r} = -2 \cos 3t \, \hat{i} + (2 \sin 2t - 4t) \, \hat{j} + t^3 \, \hat{k} + \vec{c_1} \qquad \dots (2)$$

At, t = 0, $\overrightarrow{r} = 0$

 \Rightarrow

Putting t = 0 and $\overrightarrow{r} = 0$ in (2), we get

$$\vec{O} = -2\hat{i} + \vec{C_1} \implies \vec{C_1} = 2\hat{i}$$
Hence,
$$\vec{r} = 2(1 - \cos 3t)\hat{i} + 2(\sin 2t - 2t)\hat{j} + t^3\hat{k}$$
Ans.

Example 6. If $\vec{A} = (3x^2 + 6y)\hat{i} - 14yz\hat{j} + 20xz^2\hat{k}$, evaluate the line integral $\oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{r}$ from (0, 0, 0) to (1, 1, 1) along the curve C.

x = t, $y = t^2$, $z = t^3$. (Uttarakhand, I Semester, Dec. 2006)

Solution. We have,

$$\int_{C} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C} [(3x^{2} + 6y) \hat{i} - 14yz\hat{j} + 20xz^{2}\hat{k}] \cdot [\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz]$$

$$= \int_{C} [(3x^{2} + 6y) dx - 14yzdy + 20xz^{2}dz]$$

If x = t, $y = t^2$, $z = t^3$, then points (0, 0, 0) and (1, 1, 1) correspond to t = 0 and t = 1 respectively.

Now,
$$\int_{C} \overrightarrow{A} \cdot d\overrightarrow{r} = \int_{t=0}^{t=1} [(3t^{2} + 6t^{2}) d(t) - 14t^{2} t^{3} d(t^{2}) + 20t (t^{3})^{2} d(t^{3})]$$

$$= \int_{t=0}^{t=1} [9t^{2} dt - 14t^{5} \cdot 2t dt + 20t^{7} \cdot 3t^{2} dt] = \int_{0}^{1} (9t^{2} - 28t^{6} + 60t^{9}) dt$$

$$= \left[9\left(\frac{t^{3}}{3}\right) - 28\left(\frac{t^{7}}{7}\right) + 60\left(\frac{t^{10}}{10}\right)\right]_{0}^{1} = 3 - 4 + 6 = 5$$
Ans.

Example 7. Compute $\int_{c} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr}$, where $\vec{F} = \frac{\hat{i}y - \hat{j}x}{x^2 + y^2}$ and c is the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ traversed counter clockwise.

Solution.
$$\overrightarrow{r} = \hat{i} x + \hat{j} y + \hat{k} z, d \overrightarrow{r} = \hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz$$

$$\int_{c} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot d \overrightarrow{r} = \int_{c} \frac{\hat{i} y - \hat{j} x}{x^{2} + y^{2}} \cdot (\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz)$$

$$= \int_{c} \frac{y dx - x dy}{x^{2} + y^{2}} = \int_{c} (y dx - x dy) \qquad ...(1) [\because x^{2} + y^{2} = 1]$$

Parametric equation of the circle are $x = \cos \theta$, $y = \sin \theta$.

Putting $x = \cos \theta$, $y = \sin \theta$, $dx = -\sin \theta d\theta$, $dy = \cos \theta d\theta$ in (1), we get

$$\int_{C} \overrightarrow{F} d\overrightarrow{r} = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \sin \theta \left(-\sin \theta d\theta \right) - \cos \theta \left(\cos \theta d\theta \right)$$

$$= -\int_{0}^{2\pi} (\sin^{2} \theta + \cos^{2} \theta) d\theta = -\int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta = -\left(\theta \right)_{0}^{2\pi} = -2\pi$$
Ans.

Example 8. Show that the vector field $\vec{F} = 2x(y^2 + z^3)\hat{i} + 2x^2y\hat{j} + 3x^2z^2\hat{k}$ is conservative. Find its scalar potential and the work done in moving a particle from (-1, 2, 1) to (2, 3, 4). (A.M.I.E.T.E. June 2010, 2009)

Solution. Here, we have

$$\overrightarrow{F} = 2x(y^{2} + z^{3}) \hat{i} + 2x^{2}y \hat{j} + 3x^{2}z^{2}\hat{k}$$
Curl $\overrightarrow{F} = \nabla \times \overrightarrow{F}$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ 2x(y^{2} + z^{3}) & 2x^{2}y & 3x^{2}z^{2} \end{vmatrix} = (0 - 0)i - (6xz^{2} - 6xz^{2})\hat{j} + (4xy - 4xy)\hat{k} = 0$$

Hence, vector field \overrightarrow{F} is irrotational. To find the scalar potential function ϕ

$$\overrightarrow{F} = \overrightarrow{\nabla} \phi$$

$$d \phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} dz = \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}\right) \cdot \left(\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz\right)$$

$$= \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right) \phi \cdot \left(d\overrightarrow{r}\right) = \nabla \phi \cdot d\overrightarrow{r} = \overrightarrow{F} \cdot d\overrightarrow{r}$$

$$= \left[2x(y^2 + z^3)\hat{i} + 2x^2y\hat{j} + 3x^2z^2\hat{k}\right] \cdot \left(\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz\right)$$

$$= 2x(y^2 + z^3) dx + 2x^2y dy + 3x^2z^2 dz$$

$$\phi = \int \left[2x(y^2 + z^3) dx + 2x^2y dy + 3x^2z^2 dz\right] + C$$

$$\left[(2xy^2 dx + 2x^2y dy) + (2xz^3 dx + 3x^2z^2 dz) + C = x^2y^2 + x^2z^3 + C\right]$$

Hence, the scalar potential is $x^2y^2 + x^2z^3 + C$ Now, for conservative field

Work done =
$$\int_{(-1,2,1)}^{(2,3,4)} \overrightarrow{f} \cdot d\overrightarrow{r} = \int_{(-1,2,1)}^{(2,3,4)} d\phi = \left[\phi\right]_{(-1,2,1)}^{(2,3,4)} = \left[x^2y^2 + x^2z^3 + c\right]_{(-1,2,1)}^{(2,3,4)}$$
= $(36 + 256) - (2 - 1) = 291$ Ans.

Example 9. A vector field is given by $\overrightarrow{F} = (\sin y) \hat{i} + x (1 + \cos y) \hat{j}$. Evaluate the line integral over a circular path $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$, z = 0. (Nagpur University, Winter 2001) **Solution.** We have,

Work done =
$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{dr}$$

$$= \int_C [(\sin y)\hat{i} + x(1 + \cos y)\hat{j}] \cdot [dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}] \quad (\because z = 0 \text{ hence } dz = 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d} \, r = \int_C \sin y \, dx + x(1 + \cos y) \, dy = \int_C (\sin y \, dx + x \cos y \, dy + x \, dy)$$

$$= \int_C d(x \sin y) + \int_C x \, dy$$

(where d is differential operator).

The parametric equations of given path

$$x^2 + y^2 = a^2$$
 are $x = a \cos \theta$, $y = a \sin \theta$,

Where θ varies form 0 to 2π

$$\therefore \int_{C} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{d} r = \int_{0}^{2\pi} d \left[a \cos \theta \sin \left(a \sin \theta \right) \right] + \int_{0}^{2\pi} a \cos \theta \cdot a \cos \theta d \theta$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2\pi} d \left[a \cos \theta \sin \left(a \sin \theta \right) \right] + \int_{0}^{2\pi} a^{2} \cos^{2} \theta \cdot d \theta$$

$$= \left[a \cos \theta \sin \left(a \sin \theta \right) \right]_{0}^{2\pi} + \int_{0}^{2\pi} a^{2} \cos^{2} \theta d \theta$$

$$= 0 + a^{2} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \left(\frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} \right) d\theta = \frac{a^{2}}{2} \left[\theta + \frac{\sin 2\theta}{2} \right]_{0}^{2\pi}$$

$$= \frac{a^{2}}{2} \cdot 2\pi = \pi a^{2}$$

Example 10. Determine whether the line integral

 $\int (2xyz^2) dx + (x^2z^2 + z\cos yz) dy + (2x^2yz + y\cos yz) dz$ is independent of the path of

Ans.

integration ? If so, then evaluate it from (1, 0, 1) to $\left(0, \frac{\pi}{2}, 1\right)$.

Solution.
$$\int_{c} (2xy z^{2}) dx + (x^{2}z^{2} + z \cos y z) dy + (2x^{2}yz + y \cos yz) dz$$

$$= \int_{c} [(2xy z^{2}\hat{i}) + (x^{2}z^{2} + z \cos y z) \hat{j} + (2x^{2}yz + y \cos yz) \hat{k}] \cdot (\hat{i}dx + \hat{j}dy + \hat{k}dz)$$

$$= \int_{c} \overrightarrow{F} \cdot d\overrightarrow{r}$$

This integral is independent of path of integration if

$$\overrightarrow{F} = \nabla \phi \implies \nabla \times \overrightarrow{F} = 0$$

$$\overrightarrow{i} \qquad \qquad \overrightarrow{j} \qquad \qquad \widehat{k}$$

$$\nabla \times \overrightarrow{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ 2xyz^2 & x^2z^2 + z\cos yz & 2x^2yz + y\cos yz \end{vmatrix}$$

 $= (2x^2z + \cos yz - yz \sin yz - 2x^2z - \cos yz + yz \sin yz) \hat{i} - (4xyz - 4x yz) \hat{j} + (2xz^2 - 2xz^2) \hat{k}$

Hence, the line integral is independent of path

$$d\phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} dz$$
 (Total differentiation)

$$= \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}\right) \cdot (\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz) = \nabla \phi \cdot dr = \overrightarrow{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{d} r$$

$$= \left[(2xyz^2) \hat{i} + (x^2z^2 + z\cos yz) \hat{j} + (2x^2yz + y\cos yz) \hat{k} \right] \cdot (\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz)$$

$$= 2xyz^2 dx + (x^2z^2 + z\cos yz) dy + (2x^2yz + y\cos yz) dz$$

$$= \left[(2x dx) yz^2 + x^2 (dy) z^2 + x^2 y(2z dz) \right] + \left[(\cos yz dy) z + (\cos yz dz) y \right]$$

$$= d (x^{2}yz^{2}) + d (\sin yz)$$

$$\phi = \int d (x^{2}yz^{2}) + \int d (\sin yz) = x^{2}yz^{2} + \sin yz$$

$$[\phi]_{A}^{B} = \phi (B) - \phi (A)$$

$$= [x^{2}yz^{2} + \sin yz]_{(0, \frac{\pi}{2}, 1)} - [x^{2}yz^{2} + \sin yz]_{(1, 0, 1)} = \left[0 + \sin(\frac{\pi}{2} \times 1)\right] - [0 + 0]$$

$$= 1$$
Ans.

Example for Practice Purpose

- 1. Find the work done by a force $y\hat{i} + x\hat{j}$ which displaces a particle from origin to a point $(\hat{i} + \hat{j})$. Ans. 1
- 2. Find the work done when a force $\overline{F} = (x^2 y^2 + x) \hat{i} (2xy + y) \hat{j}$ moves a particle from origin to (1, 1) along a parabola $y^2 = x$.

 Ans. $\frac{2}{3}$
- 3. Show that $\overrightarrow{V} = (2xy + z^3) \ \hat{i} + x^2 \ \hat{j} + 3xz^2 \ \hat{k}$ is a conservative field. Find its scalar potential ϕ such that $\overrightarrow{V} = \text{grad } \phi$. Find the work done by the force \overrightarrow{V} in moving a particle from (1, -2, 1) to (3, 1, 4).

 Ans. $x^2y + xz^3$, 202
- 4. Show that the line integral $\int_c (2xy+3) dx + (x^2-4z) dy 4y dz$ where c is any path joining (0, 0, 0) to (1, -1, 3) does not depend on the path c and evaluate the line integral.

 Ans. 14
- 6. If $\overrightarrow{\nabla} \phi = (y^2 2xyz^3) \ \hat{i} + (3 + 2xy x^2z^3) \ \hat{j} + (z^3 3x^2yz^2) \ \hat{k}$, find ϕ . Ans. $3y + \frac{z^4}{4} + xy^2 x^2yz^3$