

13.21. INTEGRATION OF VECTOR FUNCTIONS

Let $\vec{f}(t)$ and $\vec{F}(t)$ be two vector functions of a scalar variable t such that $\frac{d}{dt}\vec{F}(t) = \vec{f}(t)$, then $\vec{F}(t)$ is called an integral of $\vec{f}(t)$ with respect to t and we write $\int \vec{f}(t) dt = \vec{F}(t)$

If \vec{c} is any arbitrary constant vector independent of t , then $\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{F}(t) + \vec{c}) = \vec{f}(t)$

This is equivalent to $\int \vec{f}(t) dt = \vec{F}(t) + \vec{c}$

$\vec{F}(t)$ is called the *indefinite integral* of $\vec{f}(t)$. The constant vector \vec{c} is called the *constant of integration* and can be determined if some initial conditions are given.

The *definite integral* of $\vec{f}(t)$ between the limits $t = a$ and $t = b$ is written as

$$\int_a^b \vec{f}(t) dt = \left[\vec{F}(t) \right]_a^b = \vec{F}(b) - \vec{F}(a).$$

Note 1. If $\vec{f}(t) = f_1(t)\hat{i} + f_2(t)\hat{j} + f_3(t)\hat{k}$, then

$$\int \vec{f}(t) dt = \hat{i} \int f_1(t) dt + \hat{j} \int f_2(t) dt + \hat{k} \int f_3(t) dt.$$

Thus in order to integrate a vector function, integrate its components.

Note 2. We can obtain some standard results for integration of vector functions by considering the derivatives of suitable vector functions. For example,

$$(i) \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}) = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \cdot \vec{s} + \vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{s}}{dt} \Rightarrow \int \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \cdot \vec{s} + \vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{s}}{dt} \right) dt = \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s} + c$$

Here c is a scalar quantity since the integrand is a scalar.

$$(ii) \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r}^2) = 2\vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \Rightarrow \int \left(2\vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = \vec{r}^2 + c \text{ where } c \text{ is a scalar quantity.}$$

$$(iii) \frac{d}{dt} \left(\vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} + \vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} = \vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} \Rightarrow \int \left(\vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} \right) dt = \vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} + \vec{c}$$

Here \vec{c} is a vector quantity since the integrand is a vector.

$$(iv) \text{ If } \vec{a} \text{ is a constant vector, then } \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{a} \times \vec{r}) = \frac{d\vec{a}}{dt} \times \vec{r} + \vec{a} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \vec{a} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \left(\vec{a} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = \vec{a} \times \vec{r} + \vec{c}, \text{ where } \vec{c} \text{ is a vector quantity.}$$

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

Example 1. 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 \vec{v} and displacement \vec{r} be zero at $t = 0$, find \vec{v} and \vec{r} at any point t .

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

Integrating, we have $\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \hat{i} \int 18 \cos 3t dt + \hat{j} \int -8 \sin 2t dt + \hat{k} \int 6t dt$
 $= 6 \sin 3t \hat{i} + 4 \cos 2t \hat{j} + 3t^2 \hat{k} + \vec{c}$

At $t = 0$, $\vec{v} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{0} = 4 \hat{j} + \vec{c} \Rightarrow \vec{c} = -4 \hat{j}$

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

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

At $t = 0$, $\vec{r} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{0} = -2 \hat{i} + \vec{c} \Rightarrow \vec{c} = 2 \hat{i}$

$\therefore \vec{r} = 2(1 - \cos 3t) \hat{i} + 2(\sin 2t - 2t) \hat{j} + t^3 \hat{k}$.

Example 2. If $\vec{A}(t) = (3t^2 - 2t) \hat{i} + (6t - 4) \hat{j} + 4t \hat{k}$, evaluate $\int_2^3 \vec{A}(t) dt$.

Sol. $\int_2^3 \vec{A}(t) dt = \int_2^3 [(3t^2 - 2t) \hat{i} + (6t - 4) \hat{j} + 4t \hat{k}] dt$
 $= \hat{i} \int_2^3 (3t^2 - 2t) dt + \hat{j} \int_2^3 (6t - 4) dt + \hat{k} \int_2^3 4t dt$
 $= \hat{i} \left[t^3 - t^2 \right]_2^3 + \hat{j} \left[3t^2 - 4t \right]_2^3 + \hat{k} \left[2t^2 \right]_2^3 = 14 \hat{i} + 11 \hat{j} + 10 \hat{k}$.

Example 3. If $\vec{r}(t) = 5t^2 \hat{i} + t \hat{j} - t^3 \hat{k}$, prove that $\int_1^2 \left(\vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} \right) dt = -14 \hat{i} + 75 \hat{j} - 15 \hat{k}$.

Sol. Since $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} + \vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} = \vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2}$

$\therefore \int_1^2 \left(\vec{r} \times \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} \right) dt = \left[\vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right]_1^2 \quad \dots(1)$

Let us now find $\vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$.

$$\vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = (5t^2\hat{i} + t\hat{j} - t^3\hat{k}) \times (10t\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 3t^2\hat{k})$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 5t^2 & t & -t^3 \\ 10t & 1 & -3t^2 \end{vmatrix} = -2t^3\hat{i} + 5t^4\hat{j} - 5t^2\hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \text{From (1), we have } \int_1^2 \left(\vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = \left[-2t^3\hat{i} + 5t^4\hat{j} - 5t^2\hat{k} \right]_1^2$$

$$= \left[-2t^3 \right]_1^2 \hat{i} + \left[5t^4 \right]_1^2 \hat{j} - \left[-5t^2 \right]_1^2 \hat{k} = -14\hat{i} + 75\hat{j} - 15\hat{k}.$$

Example 4. Given that $\vec{r}(t) = \begin{cases} 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}, & \text{when } t = 2 \\ 4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}, & \text{when } t = 3 \end{cases}$,

show that $\int_2^3 \left(\vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = 10$.

Sol. Since $\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r}^2) = 2\vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$

$$\therefore \int_2^3 \left(\vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = \frac{1}{2} \left[\vec{r}^2 \right]_2^3 \quad \dots(1)$$

When $t = 3$, $\vec{r}^2 = (4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) \cdot (4\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) = 16 + 4 + 9 = 29$

When $t = 2$, $\vec{r}^2 = (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) \cdot (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 4 + 1 + 4 = 9$

$$\therefore \text{From (1), we have } \int_2^3 \left(\vec{r} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = \frac{1}{2} [29 - 9] = 10.$$

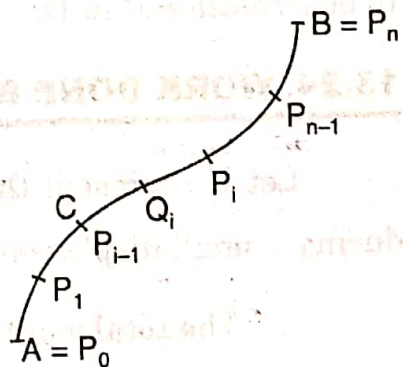
13.22. LINE INTEGRALS

Any integral which is to be evaluated along a curve is called a line integral.

Let $\vec{F}(P)$ be a continuous vector point function defined at every point of a curve C in space. Divide the curve C into n parts by the points

$$A = P_0, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n = B$$

and let $\vec{R}_0, \vec{R}_1, \vec{R}_2, \dots, \vec{R}_n$ be the position vectors of these points. Let Q_i be any point on the arc $P_{i-1}P_i$. Then the limit of the sum



$$\sum_{i=1}^n \vec{F}(\vec{Q}_i) \cdot \delta \vec{R}_i \quad \text{where} \quad \delta \vec{R}_i = \vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{i-1} \quad \dots(1)$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and every $|\delta \vec{R}_i| \rightarrow 0$, if it exists, is called a line integral of \vec{F} along C and is denoted by

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{R} \quad \text{or} \quad \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \frac{d\vec{R}}{dt} dt.$$

Clearly, it is a scalar. It is called the *tangential line integral* of \vec{F} along C.

If the scalar products in (1) are replaced by vector products, then the corresponding line integral is defined as $\int_C \vec{F} \times d\vec{R}$ which is a vector.

If the vector function \vec{F} is replaced by a scalar function ϕ , then the corresponding line integral is defined as $\int_C \phi d\vec{R}$, which is a vector.

If $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = f_1\hat{i} + f_2\hat{j} + f_3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{R} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$ then $d\vec{R} = \hat{i}dx + \hat{j}dy + \hat{k}dz$

$$\therefore \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{R} = \int_C (f_1 dx + f_2 dy + f_3 dz)$$

If the parametric equations of the curve C are $x = x(t)$, $y = y(t)$, $z = z(t)$ and $t = t_1$ at A, $t = t_2$ at B, then

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{R} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(f_1 \frac{dx}{dt} + f_2 \frac{dy}{dt} + f_3 \frac{dz}{dt} \right) dt$$

If C is a closed curve, then the integral sign \int_C is replaced by \oint_C .

13.23. CIRCULATION

In fluid dynamics, if \vec{V} represents the velocity of a fluid particle and C is a closed curve, then the integral $\oint_C \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{R}$ is called the *circulation* of \vec{V} around the curve C.

If the circulation of \vec{V} around every closed curve in a region D vanishes, then \vec{V} is said to be *irrotational* in D.

13.24. WORK DONE BY A FORCE

Let \vec{F} represent the force acting on a particle moving along an arc AB. The work done during a small displacement $\delta \vec{R}$ is $\vec{F} \cdot \delta \vec{R}$.

\therefore The total work done by \vec{F} during displacement from A to B is given by $\int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{R}$

If the force \vec{F} is conservative, then there exists a scalar function ϕ such that

$$\vec{F} = \nabla \phi = \hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \text{The work done by } \vec{F} \text{ during displacement from A to B} &= \int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{R} \\
 &= \int_A^B \left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right) \times (\hat{i} dx + \hat{j} dy + \hat{k} dz) \\
 &= \int_A^B \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} dz \right) = \int_A^B d\phi = \left[\phi \right]_A^B = \phi_B - \phi_A
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, in a conservative field, the work done depends on the value of ϕ at the end points A and B, and not on the path joining A and B.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

Example 1. If $\vec{F} = 3xy\hat{i} - y^2\hat{j}$, evaluate $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$, where C is the arc of the parabola $y = 2x^2$ from (0, 0) to (1, 2).

Sol. Since the integration is performed in the xy -plane ($z = 0$), we take

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} \quad \text{so that } d\vec{r} = dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}$$

$$\therefore \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = (3xy\hat{i} - y^2\hat{j}) \cdot (dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}) = 3xy \, dx - y^2 \, dy$$

On C : $y = 2x^2$ from (0, 0) to (1, 2)

$$\vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 3x(2x^2) \, dx - (2x^2)^2 (4x \, dx) = (6x^3 - 16x^5) \, dx$$

Also, x varies from 0 to 1.

$$\therefore \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_0^1 (6x^3 - 16x^5) \, dx = \left[\frac{6x^4}{4} - \frac{16x^6}{6} \right]_0^1 = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{8}{3} = -\frac{7}{6}$$

Note that if the curve is traversed in the opposite sense, i.e., from (1, 2) to (0, 0), the value of the integral would be $\frac{7}{6}$.

Second Method

Let $x = t$, then the parametric equations of the parabola $y = 2x^2$ are $x = t$, $y = 2t^2$.

At the point (0, 0), $x = 0$ and so $t = 0$

At the point (1, 2), $x = 1$ and so $t = 1$

If \vec{r} is the position vector of any point (x, y) on C, then $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} = t\hat{i} + 2t^2\hat{j}$

Also in terms of t , $\vec{F} = (3t \times 2t^2)\hat{i} - (2t^2)^2\hat{j} = 6t^3\hat{i} - 4t^4\hat{j}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} &= \int_C \left(\vec{F} \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt = \int_0^1 (6t^3\hat{i} - 4t^4\hat{j}) \cdot (\hat{i} + 4t\hat{j}) \, dt \\
 &= \int_0^1 (6t^3 - 16t^5) \, dt = \left[\frac{6t^4}{4} - \frac{16t^6}{6} \right]_0^1 = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{8}{3} = -\frac{7}{6}
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 2. A vector field is given by $\vec{F} = (\sin y)\hat{i} + x(1 + \cos y)\hat{j}$. Evaluate the line integral over the circular path given by $x^2 + y^2 = a^2, z = 0$.

Sol. The parametric equations of the circular path are $x = a \cos t, y = a \sin t, z = 0$ where t varies from 0 to 2π .

Since the particle moves in the xy -plane ($z = 0$), we can take $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ so that $d\vec{r} = dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} &= \oint_C [\sin y\hat{i} + x(1 + \cos y)\hat{j}] \cdot (dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}) \\ &= \oint_C [\sin y dx + x(1 + \cos y) dy] = \oint_C [(\sin y dx + x \cos y dy) + x dy] \\ &= \oint_C d(x \sin y) + \oint_C x dy = \int_0^{2\pi} d[a \cos t \sin(a \sin t)] + \int_0^{2\pi} a \cos t \cdot a \cos t dt \\ &= \left[a \cos t \sin(a \sin t) \right]_0^{2\pi} + a^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 t dt \\ &= \frac{a^2}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (1 + \cos 2t) dt = \frac{a^2}{2} \left[t + \frac{\sin 2t}{2} \right]_0^{2\pi} = \frac{a^2}{2} (2\pi) = \pi a^2.\end{aligned}$$

Example 3. If $\vec{F} = 2y\hat{i} - z\hat{j} + x\hat{k}$, evaluate $\oint_C \vec{F} \times d\vec{r}$ along the curve $x = \cos t, y = \sin t, z = 2 \cos t$ from $t = 0$ to $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$$\text{Sol. } \vec{F} \times d\vec{r} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2y & -z & x \\ dx & dy & dz \end{vmatrix} = (-zdz - xdy)\hat{i} + (xdx - 2ydz)\hat{j} + (2ydy + zdx)\hat{k}$$

In terms of t ,

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{F} \times d\vec{r} &= [-2 \cos t(-2 \sin t) dt - \cos t(\cos t) dt]\hat{i} \\ &\quad + [\cos t(-\sin t) dt - 2 \sin t(-2 \sin t) dt]\hat{j} + [2 \sin t(\cos t) dt + 2 \cos t(-\sin t) dt]\hat{k} \\ &= [(4 \cos t \sin t - \cos^2 t)\hat{i} + (4 \sin^2 t - \cos t \sin t)\hat{j}] dt \\ \therefore \int_C \vec{F} \times d\vec{r} &= \int_0^{\pi/2} [(4 \cos t \sin t - \cos^2 t)\hat{i} + (4 \sin^2 t - \cos t \sin t)\hat{j}] dt \\ &= \left(4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \hat{i} + \left(4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \hat{j} = \left(2 - \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\pi - \frac{1}{2} \right) \hat{j}.\end{aligned}$$

Example 4. Compute $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$, 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.

Sol. For the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ in the xy -plane, we take $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ so that $d\vec{r} = dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j}$.

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \left(\frac{i y - j x}{x^2 + y^2} \right) \cdot (dx \hat{i} + dy \hat{j})$$

$$= \int_C \frac{y dx - x dy}{x^2 + y^2} = \int_C (y dx - x dy)$$

$$[\because x^2 + y^2 = 1]$$

Parametric equation of the circle $C : x^2 + y^2 = 1$ is $x = \cos \theta, y = \sin \theta$
so that $dx = -\sin \theta d\theta, dy = \cos \theta d\theta$ and θ varies from 0 to 2π .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sin \theta (-\sin \theta d\theta) - \cos \theta (\cos \theta d\theta) \\ &= -\int_0^{2\pi} (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) d\theta = -\int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \\ &= -[\theta]_0^{2\pi} = -2\pi. \end{aligned}$$

Example 5. Compute the line integral $\int_C (y^2 dx - x^2 dy)$ about the triangle whose vertices are $(1, 0), (0, 1)$ and $(-1, 0)$.

Sol. Here C is the triangle ABC .

On AB Equation of AB is

$$y - 0 = \frac{1 - 0}{0 - 1}(x - 1) \quad \text{or} \quad y = 1 - x$$

$\therefore dy = -dx$ and x varies from 1 to 0.

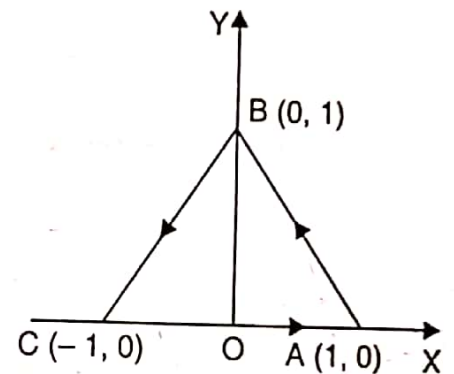
On BC Equation of BC is

$$y - 1 = \frac{0 - 1}{-1 - 0}(x - 0) \quad \text{or} \quad y = 1 + x$$

$\therefore dy = dx$ and x varies from 0 to -1 .

On CA $y = 0 \therefore dy = 0$ and x varies from -1 to 1.

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_C (y^2 dx - x^2 dy) &= \int_{AB} (y^2 dx - x^2 dy) + \int_{BC} (y^2 dx - x^2 dy) + \int_{CA} (y^2 dx - x^2 dy) \\ &= \int_1^0 [(1 - x)^2 dx - x^2 (-dx)] + \int_0^{-1} [(1 + x)^2 dx - x^2 dx] + \int_{-1}^1 0 dx \\ &= \int_1^0 (2x^2 - 2x + 1) dx + \int_0^{-1} (2x + 1) dx + 0 \\ &= \left[\frac{2x^3}{3} - \frac{2x^2}{2} + x \right]_1^0 + \left[\frac{2x^2}{2} + x \right]_0^{-1} \\ &= \left(-\frac{2}{3} + 1 - 1 \right) + (1 - 1) = -\frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$



Example 6. Find the work done in moving a particle in the force field $\vec{F} = 3x^2 \hat{i} + (2xz - y) \hat{j} + z \hat{k}$ along

- the straight line from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(2, 1, 3)$
- the curve defined by $x^2 = 4y, 3x^3 = 8z$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 2$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sol. Work done} &= \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C [3x^2\hat{i} + (2xz - y)\hat{j} + z\hat{k}] \cdot (dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j} + dz\hat{k}) \\ &= \int_C [3x^2dx + (2xz - y)dy + zdz] \quad \dots(1)\end{aligned}$$

(i) Equation of straight line from (0, 0, 0) to (2, 1, 3) are

$$\frac{x-0}{2-0} = \frac{y-0}{1-0} = \frac{z-0}{3-0} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{x}{2} = \frac{y}{1} = \frac{z}{3} = t \quad (\text{say})$$

$$\therefore C: x = 2t, y = t, z = 3t$$

so that $dx = 2dt, dy = dt, dz = 3dt$

The points (0, 0, 0) and (2, 1, 3) correspond to $t = 0$ and $t = 1$ respectively.

\therefore From (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Work done} &= \int_0^1 [3(2t)^2 2dt + \{2(2t)(3t) - t\} dt + (3t) 3dt] \\ &= \int_0^1 (24t^2 + 12t^2 - t + 9t) dt = \int_0^1 (36t^2 + 8t) dt \\ &= \left[12t^3 + 4t^2 \right]_0^1 = 16\end{aligned}$$

(ii) Let $x = t$, then $C: x = t, y = \frac{t^2}{4}, z = \frac{3t^3}{8}$

so that $dx = dt, dy = \frac{t}{2} dt, dz = \frac{9t^2}{8} dt$

From $x = 0$ to $x = 2$, t varies from 0 to 2.

($\because t = x$)

\therefore From (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Work done} &= \int_0^2 \left[3t^2 dt + \left\{ 2(t) \left(\frac{3t^3}{8} \right) - \frac{t^2}{4} \right\} \left(\frac{t}{2} dt \right) + \frac{3t^3}{8} \left(\frac{9t^2}{8} dt \right) \right] \\ &= \int_0^2 \left(3t^2 + \frac{3}{8}t^5 - \frac{1}{8}t^3 + \frac{27}{64}t^5 \right) dt = \int_0^2 \left(\frac{51}{64}t^5 - \frac{1}{8}t^3 + 3t^2 \right) dt \\ &= \left[\frac{51}{64} \cdot \frac{t^6}{6} - \frac{t^4}{32} + t^3 \right]_0^2 = \frac{17}{2} - \frac{1}{2} + 8 = 16.\end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION The **length** of a smooth curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j} + z(t)\mathbf{k}$, $a \leq t \leq b$, that is traced exactly once as t increases from $t = a$ to $t = b$, is

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{dt}\right)^2} dt. \quad (1)$$

EXAMPLE 1 A glider is soaring upward along the helix $\mathbf{r}(t) = (\cos t)\mathbf{i} + (\sin t)\mathbf{j} + t\mathbf{k}$. How long is the glider's path from $t = 0$ to $t = 2\pi$?

Solution The path segment during this time corresponds to one full turn of the helix (Figure 13.13). The length of this portion of the curve is

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_a^b |\mathbf{v}| dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(-\sin t)^2 + (\cos t)^2 + (1)^2} dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2} dt = 2\pi\sqrt{2} \text{ units of length.} \end{aligned}$$