

# Path Independence, Conservative Fields and Potential Function

## Path Independence

Definition: Let  $\vec{F}$  be a vector field on an open region  $(D)$  in space and suppose that for any two points  $(A)$  to  $(B)$  in the line integral from  $A$  to  $B$  in  $(D)$  is the same over all points from  $A$  to  $B$ . Then the integral

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

along a path  $(C)$

$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$  is path independent in  $(D)$  and the field  $\vec{F}$  is conservative on  $(D)$   $\Rightarrow \text{curl } \vec{F} = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow \vec{F} = \nabla \phi$

$\phi$  potential  
function

integral by the symbol

$\int_A^B$  rather than the usual line integral symbol  $\int_C$

on page  
(41)

# Assumptions on Curves, Vector Fields and Domains:

A curve in the  $xy$ -plane is simple if it does not cross itself, when a curve starts and ends at the same point, it is called a closed curve or loop (Fig. (1))

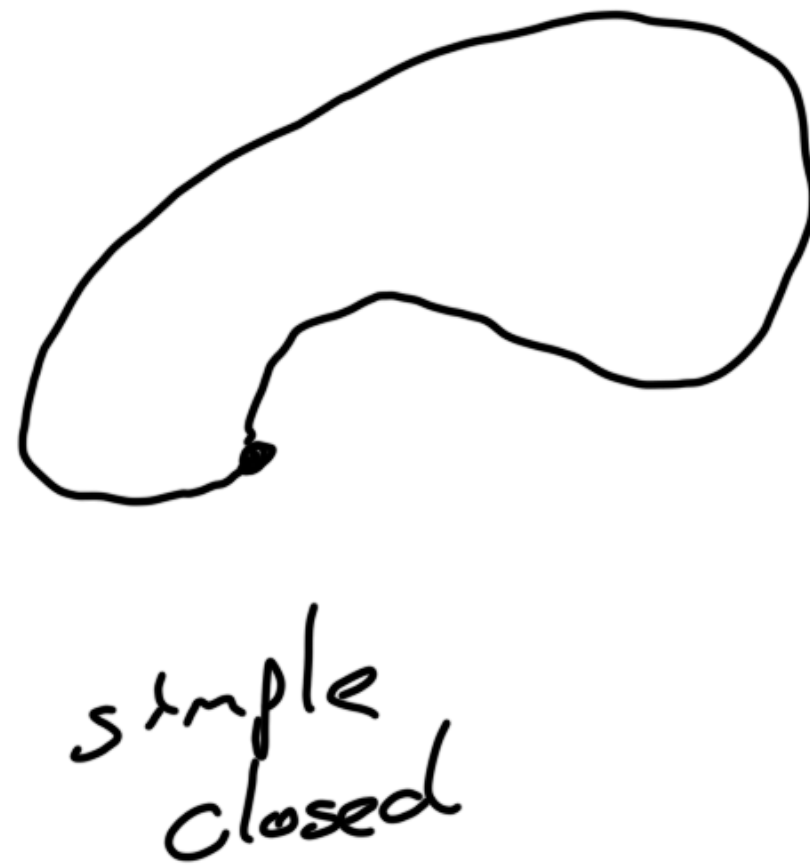
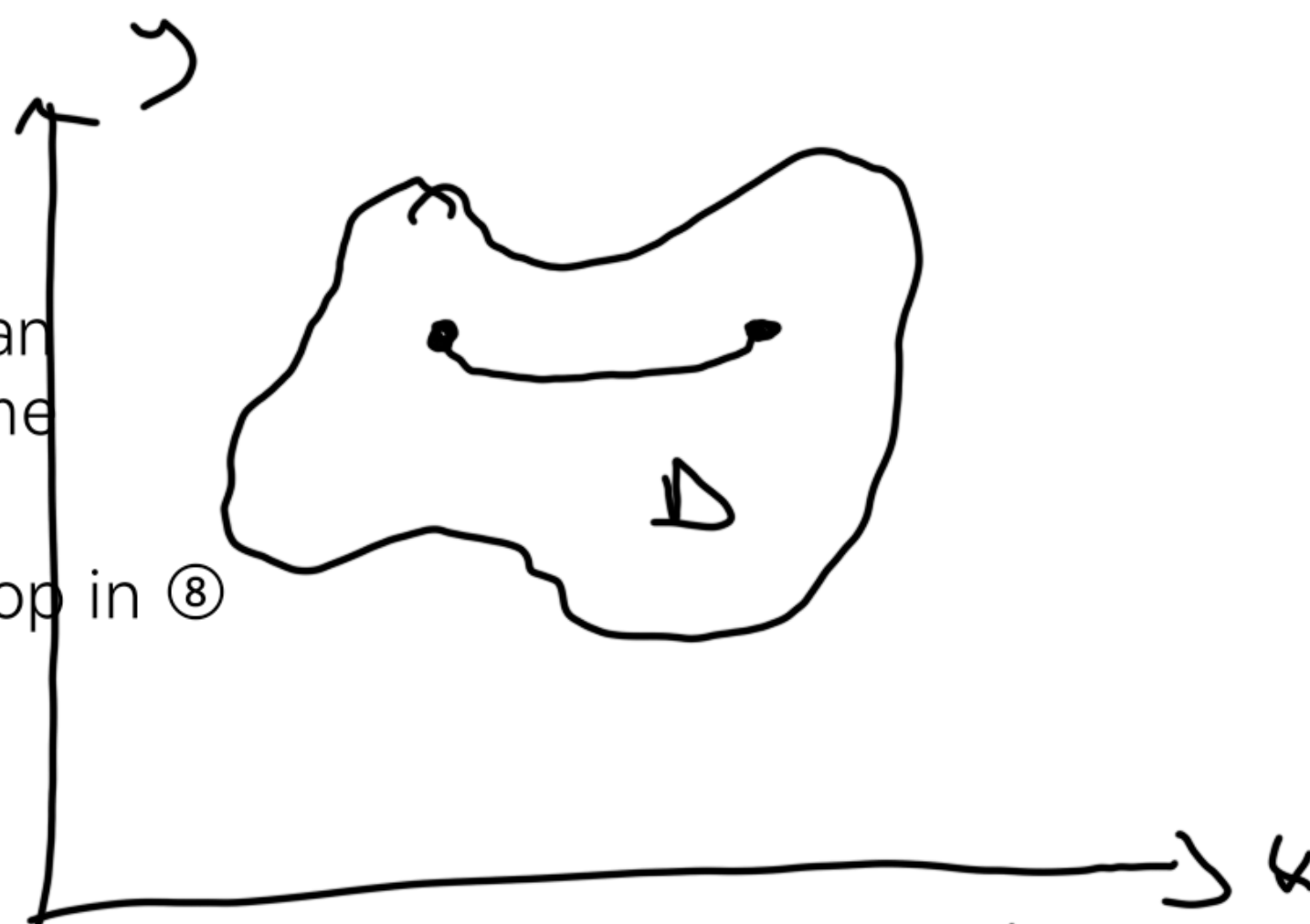


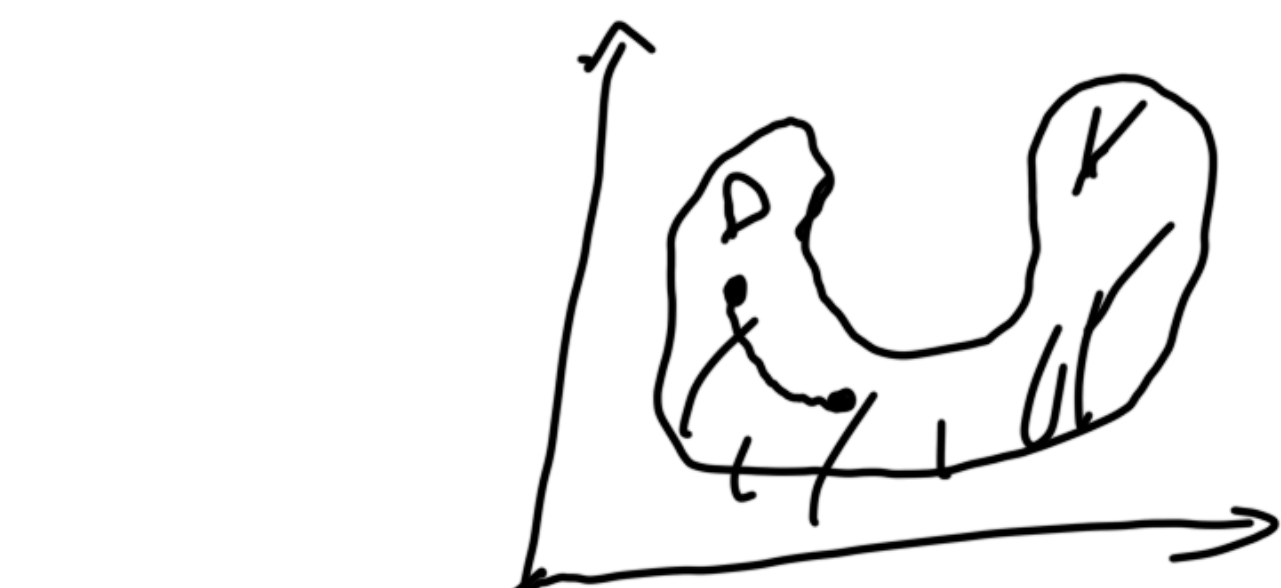
Fig - 1 - Distinguishing Curves

us  $D$  we consider are open regions  
 every point in  $D$  in the center of an  
 hat lies entirely in  $D$ . we also assume  
 connected. Finally, we assume  $D$  is  
 ted, which means that every loop in  $D$

The domains  $D$  we consider are open regions  
 in space, so every point in  $D$  is the center of an  
 open ball that lies entirely in  $D$ . we also assume  
 $D$  to be connected. Finally, we assume  $D$  is  
 simply connected, which means that every loop in  $D$



a) Simply connected



b) Simply connected



c) not simply connected

d) not simply connected

# Line Integrals

Let  $C$  be a smooth curve joining the point  $A$  to the point  $B$  in the plane or in space and parametrized by  $\vec{r}(t)$ . Let  $\phi$  be a differentiable function with a continuous gradient vector  $\vec{F} = \nabla\phi$  on a domain  $D$  containing  $C$ . Then

$$\int_C \vec{F} d\vec{r} = \phi(B) - \phi(A)$$

Proof of theorem 1: Suppose that  $A$  and  $B$  are two points in region  $D$ .

$$C: \left\{ \vec{r}(t) = x(t)\vec{i} + y(t)\vec{j} + z(t)\vec{k} \right\} \quad a \leq t \leq b$$

$\phi$  is a differentiable function of  $t$ .

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \frac{d\phi}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{d\phi}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{d\phi}{dz} \cdot \frac{dz}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\phi}{dt} = \left( \frac{d\phi}{dx} \vec{i} + \frac{d\phi}{dy} \vec{j} + \frac{d\phi}{dz} \vec{k} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \vec{i} + \frac{dy}{dt} \vec{j} + \frac{dz}{dt} \vec{k} \right)$$

$$\vec{F} = \nabla\phi \quad \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

$$\int_C \vec{F} d\vec{r} = \int_{t=a}^b \underbrace{\vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}}_{\frac{d\phi}{dt}} \cdot dt = \phi \Big|_a^b = \phi(x(b), y(b), z(b)) - \phi(x(a), y(a), z(a))$$

$$= \phi(B) - \phi(A)$$

Example: Suppose the force field  $\vec{F} = \nabla \phi$  is the gradient of the function

$$\phi(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

Find the work done by  $\vec{F}$  in moving an object along a smooth curve  $\alpha$  joining the points  $(1, 0, 0)$  to  $(0, 0, 2)$  that does not pass through the origin.

$$\text{work} = w = \int_C \vec{F} d\vec{r} = \phi \Big|_{(1,0,0)}^{(0,0,2)} = \phi(0,0,2) - \phi(1,0,0) = \frac{3}{4}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> method

Theorem 2: Conservative fields are Gradient fields

Let  $\vec{F} = \vec{P}_1 + Q_3 + \vec{R}_t$  be a vector field whose components are continuous throughout an open connected region  $D$  in space, then  $\vec{F}$  is conservative iff  $\vec{F}$  is gradient field  $\nabla \phi$ , for a differentiable function  $\phi$ . ( $\vec{F} = \nabla \phi$ )

Theorem 3: Loop property of Conservative fields

The following statements are equivalent.

1)  $\oint_C \vec{F} d\vec{r} = 0$  around every loop.

2) The field  $\vec{F}$  is conservative on  $D$





Example 3: Evaluate the integral

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(2,3,-1)

$$I = \int_{(1,1,1)} y dx + x dy + 4 dz$$

or equivalently

$$\text{curl } \vec{F} = \vec{0}$$

from (1,1,1) to (2,3,-1)

$$\int_C \vec{F} d\vec{r} = \int_{t=a}^b \left( \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right) dt$$

$$= \int_C P dx + Q dy + R dz$$

$$\vec{F} = P\vec{i} + Q\vec{j} + R\vec{k}$$

$$d\vec{r} = dx\vec{i} + dy\vec{j} + dz\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{F}(x,y,z) = y\vec{i} + x\vec{j} + z\vec{k}$$

vector field

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Curl } \vec{P} &= \nabla \times \vec{P} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{d}{dx} & \frac{d}{dy} & \frac{d}{dz} \\ y & x & 4 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \vec{i} \left( \frac{d(4)}{dy} - \frac{d(x)}{dz} \right) + \vec{j} \left( \frac{d(y)}{dz} - \frac{d(4)}{dx} \right) + \vec{k} \left( \frac{d(x)}{dx} - \frac{d(y)}{dy} \right) \\ &= \vec{0} \end{aligned}$$

-  $\vec{F}$  is conservative (or irrotational)  $\Rightarrow \vec{F} = \nabla \phi$   $\phi$ : Potensial function

- The line integral is path independent

$$I = \phi(2,3,-1) - \phi(1,1,1) \quad \Bigg/ \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{veya} \text{ doğru parçası} \\ \text{ile} \text{ yapılırsa aynı} \\ \text{olur} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1) \frac{d\phi}{dx} &= y \\ 2) \frac{d\phi}{dy} &= x \\ 3) \frac{d\phi}{dz} &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\int d\phi = \int u dz \Rightarrow \phi(x, y, z) = \int u dz + \int h(x, y) = uz + h(x, y) = \underline{uz + xy + C}$$

Potential  
function

different both given  
w.r.t.  $y$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dy} = 0 = \frac{d h(x, y)}{dy}$$

$$x = \frac{d h(x, y)}{dy} \Rightarrow d h(x, y) = x dy \Rightarrow h(x, y) = xy + g(x)$$

different both respect

w.r.t.  $x$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dx} = 0 + y + \frac{d g(x)}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d g(x)}{dx} = 0 \Rightarrow \int d g(x) = \int 0 dx$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) = C \text{ (constant)}$$

$(2, 3, -1)$

$$\int y dx + x dy + u dz =$$

$(1, 1, 1)$

$$\phi(2, 3, -1) - \phi(1, 1, 1) = (-4 + 6) - (5 + C) = -3$$

## Green's Theorem in the Plane:

Theorem: Let  $C$  be a piecewise smooth, simple closed curve enclosing a region  $R$  in  $xy$ -plane.

Let  $\vec{F}(x,y) = P(x,y)\vec{i} + Q(x,y)\vec{j}$  be a vector field with  $P$  and  $Q$  having continuous first partial derivatives in an open region containing  $R$ , then the counterclockwise circulation of  $\vec{F}$  around  $C$  equals the double integral over  $R$ :

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds = \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint_C P \, dx + Q \, dy = \iint_R \left( \frac{dQ}{dx} - \frac{dP}{dy} \right) dx \, dy$$

(Left Hand Side)      LHS      RHS (Right Hand Side)

Green's Theorem in the plane

Note:  $C$  is a closed curve.

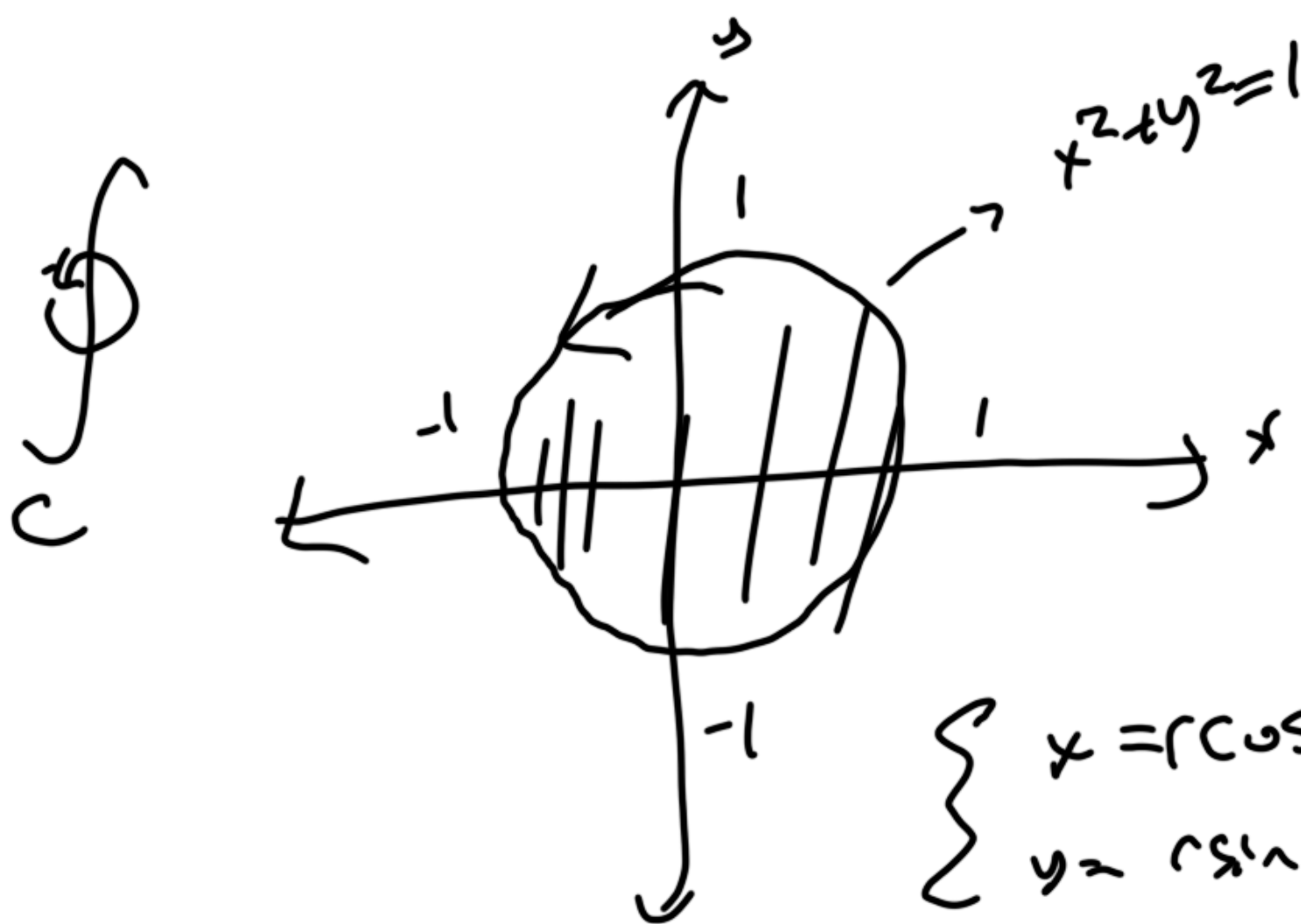
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Example Verify Green's Theorem for the vector field Page 50  
 $\vec{F}(x,y) = (x-y)\vec{i} + x\vec{j}$  and the region  $\textcircled{R}$  bounded  
 by the unit circle.

$$C: \{ \vec{r}(t) = \cos t \vec{i} + \sin t \vec{j}, 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi \}$$

2 HS: 1 = (saatın dönme tersi yönü)



$$\begin{cases} x = r \cos \theta \\ y = r \sin \theta \end{cases}$$

$$\textcircled{r=1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \cos \theta \\ y &= \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{t = \theta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \oint_C \vec{F} d\vec{r} &= \int_{t=a}^b \left[ \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \right] dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left[ (\cos t - \sin t) \vec{i} + \cos t \vec{j} \right] \cdot (-\sin t \vec{j} + \cos t \vec{i}) dt = \left. \frac{1}{4} \cos 2t \right|_{t=0}^{2\pi} \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{2 \sin t \cdot \cos t}{\sin 2t} + \underbrace{\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t}_{\textcircled{1}} \\ &= \cos 2t = \textcircled{2\pi} \end{aligned}$$

RHS: 2

$$\iint_R (Q_x - P_y) dx dy = \iint_R (2) dx dy = 2 \iint_R dx dy = \boxed{2\pi}$$

$$Q_x = 1 \quad P_y = -1$$

$$Q_x - P_y = 1 - (-1) = 2$$

$$= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \left( \int_{r=0}^1 r dr \right) d\alpha = 2\pi$$