

Stoke's Theorem

Idea: [Fundamental Theorem of Calculus](#)

$$\vec{F}(x, y, z) = \langle P, Q, R \rangle$$

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint_S (\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot \vec{n} dS = \iint_S (\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S}$$

where C is the boundary curve of [Open](#) surface S .

\vec{n} is the unit normal vector of dS . (see: [Orientation > Surface](#))

(see: [Vector line integral](#), [Flux](#))

The region couldn't be a 3D object, because they have infinite normal vectors.

Special case: [Green's Theorem > Stoke's Theorem Representation](#)

Geometric Intuition

Sum up rotations inside = rotation of the outside (boundary) (which is a [Vector line integral](#))

(see: [Curl](#) for rotation inside, [Vector line integral > Rotation](#) for rotation outside, [Fundamental Theorem of Calculus > Collecting Tangential component along Curve](#) for special case of surface in 2D)

Special Case: S Being a [Closed](#) Surface

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint_S (\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot \vec{n} dS = \iint_S (\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = 0$$

(see: [Orientation > Curve Enclosing Open Surface?](#))

Divide the [Closed](#) Surface (e.g. a ball) into top half and bottom half

For top half, the boundary curve have to be in counterclockwise direction, so that if [Flux](#) of [Curl](#) is positive, meaning the vector field on the boundary would be counterclockwise, then $\vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is positive

For bottom half, the boundary curve have to be in clockwise direction, so that if [Flux](#) of [Curl](#) is positive, meaning the vector field on the boundary would be clockwise, then $\vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is positive

Since two boundaries are in opposite direction, $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ would cancel.