MA 105 : Calculus D1 - T5, Tutorial 12

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Let $h: [0, l(\mathbf{r})] \rightarrow [0, 2\pi]$ be its inverse.

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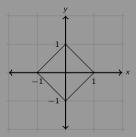
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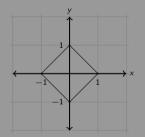
by FTC for Line Integrals (Part II)

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We shall show that \mathbf{F} is not a gradient of a scalar field on S by showing that the third condition is not true.

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Now, we compute $\oint_{\gamma} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$.

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$$= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} 1 dt = 2\pi \neq \mathbf{0}.$$

Thus, we have shown that \mathbf{F} cannot be the gradient of a scalar field on S.



This shows us that curl being zero is not a sufficient condition for a field to be a gradient field.

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However, later in the course, we'll see a condition on the "geometry" of the domain that would indeed imply that curl-free fields are grad fields.

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Can you think of examples of when geometry of domain affected the behaviour of functions in the case of one-variable calculus?