

3.3

LINE INTEGRALS

Let C be a simple curve. Let the parametric representation of C be written as

$$x = x(t), \quad y = y(t), \quad z = z(t), \quad a \leq t \leq b.$$

Therefore, the position vector of a point on the curve C can be written as

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j} + z(t)\mathbf{k}, \quad a \leq t \leq b$$

Line integral with respect to arc length

Let C be a simple smooth curve whose parametric representation is as given in above equations. Let $f(x, y, z)$ be continuous on C . Then, we define the line integral of f over C with respect to the arc length s by

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_C f(x, y, z) ds \\ &= \int_a^b f[x(t), y(t), z(t)] \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2 + z'(t)^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{since } ds = \frac{ds}{dt} dt = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{dt}\right)^2} dt.$$

This result is true since the arc length along the curve from an initial point $(x(a), y(a), z(a))$ to any point $(x(t), y(t), z(t))$ is given by

$$s(t) = \int_a^t \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{d\eta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\eta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{d\eta}\right)^2} d\eta$$

and ds is as given above.

The initial point of C is given by $(x(a), y(a), z(a))$ and the terminal point of C is given by $(x(b), y(b), z(b))$.

Example: Evaluate $\int_C (x^2 + yz) ds$, where C is the curve defined by $x = 4y, z = 3$ from $(2, 1/2, 3)$ to $(4, 1, 3)$.

Solution:

Let $x = t$. Then $y = t / 4$ and $z = 3$. Therefore, the curve C is represented by $x = t, y = t/4, z = 3, 2 \leq t \leq 4$.

We have $ds = \sqrt{17} / 4$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence, } \int_C (x^2 + yz) ds &= \frac{\sqrt{17}}{4} \int_2^4 \left(t^2 + \frac{3}{4} t \right) dt \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{17}}{4} \left[\frac{1}{3} t^3 + \frac{3}{8} t^2 \right]_2^4 \\ &= \frac{139\sqrt{17}}{24}. \end{aligned}$$

Line integral of vector fields

Let C be a smooth curve whose parametric representation is as given above equations. Let

$$\mathbf{V}(x, y, z) = v_1(x, y, z)\mathbf{i} + v_2(x, y, z)\mathbf{j} + v_3(x, y, z)\mathbf{k}$$

be a vector field that is continuous on C . Then, the line integral of \mathbf{V} over C is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_C v_1 dx + v_2 dy + v_3 dz \\ &= \int_a^b \mathbf{V}[x(t), y(t), z(t)] \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} dt.\end{aligned}$$

If $\mathbf{V} = v_1(x, y, z)\mathbf{i}$, then above equation reduces to

$$\int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C v_1 dx = \int_a^b v_1 [x(t), y(t), z(t)] \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} dt$$

Similarly, if $\mathbf{V} = v_2(x, y, z)\mathbf{j}$ or $\mathbf{V} = v_3(x, y, z)\mathbf{k}$, we respectively obtain

$$\int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C v_2 dy = \int_a^b v_2 [x(t), y(t), z(t)] \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} dt$$

$$\text{and } \int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C v_3 dz = \int_a^b v_3 [x(t), y(t), z(t)] \cdot \frac{dz}{dt} dt$$

If the curve C is piecewise smooth containing the arcs C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n , then we write

$$\int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_{C_1} \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} + \int_{C_2} \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} + \dots + \int_{C_n} \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

Example: Evaluate the line integral of $\mathbf{V} = x^2\mathbf{i} - 2y\mathbf{j} + z^2\mathbf{k}$

Over the straight line path from $(-1, 2, 3)$ to $(2, 3, 5)$.

Solution:

The parametric representation of the straight line is given by $\mathbf{r}(t) = (-\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) + t(3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k})$

$$= (-1 + 3t)\mathbf{i} + (2 + t)\mathbf{j} + (3 + 2t)\mathbf{k}, 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

[If \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are the two points, then the parametric representation of the line joining them is $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + t(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a})$].

Therefore, $\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = 3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} dt = \int_0^1 [3(-1 + 3t)^2 - 2(2 + t) + 2(3 + 2t)^2] dt \\
&= \int_0^1 (17 + 4t + 35t^2) dt \\
&= \left[17t + 2t^2 + \frac{35}{3}t^3 \right]_0^1 = \frac{92}{3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Line integral of scalar fields

Let C be a smooth curve whose parametric representation is as given in above equations. Let $f(x, y, z)$, $g(x, y, z)$ and $h(x, y, z)$ be scalar fields which are continuous at points over C . Then, we define a line integral as

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_C f(x, y, z)dx + g(x, y, z)dy + h(x, y, z)dz \\
&= \int_a^b \left[f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) \frac{dx}{dt} + g(x(t), y(t), z(t)) \frac{dy}{dt} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + h(x(t), y(t), z(t)) \frac{dz}{dt} \right] dt
\end{aligned}$$

This line integral does not contain any vector field, but involves three scalar fields. However, if we define $\mathbf{V} = f(x, y, z)\mathbf{i} + g(x, y, z)\mathbf{j} + h(x, y, z)\mathbf{k}$, and

$d\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{i}dx + \mathbf{j}dy + \mathbf{k}dz$, then the line integral is same as the line integral

If C is a closed curve, then we usually write $\int_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \oint_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$.

Example: Evaluate $\int_C (x-y)dx - x^2dy + (y+z)dz$ Where C is $x^2 = 4y, z = x, 0 \leq x \leq 2$.

Solution: We parametrise C as $x = t$, $y = t^2/4$, $z = t$, $0 \leq t \leq 2$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C (x-y)dx - x^2dy + (y+z)dz &= \int_0^2 \left[\left(t + \frac{t^2}{4} \right) - t^2 \left(\frac{t}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{t^2}{4} + t \right) \right] dt \\ &= \int_0^2 \left(2t + \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^3}{2} \right) dt \\ &= \left(t^2 + \frac{t^2}{6} - \frac{t^3}{8} \right)_0^2 = \frac{10}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

Application of line integrals

Mass of a string

If the mass per unit length of the string C is $f(x, y)$, then the total mass of the string is the line integral of $f(x, y)$ over C with respect to arc length of the string s .

i.e., $\text{mass} = \int_C f(x, y) ds$.

Work Done by a Force

Let $\mathbf{V}(x, y, z) = v_1(x, y, z)\mathbf{i} + v_2(x, y, z)\mathbf{j} + v_3(x, y, z)\mathbf{k}$ be a vector function defined and continuous at every point on C . Then, the integral of the tangential component of \mathbf{V} along the curve C from a point P to the point Q is given by

$$\int_Q^P \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_{C^*} \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_{C^*} v_1 dx + v_2 dy + v_3 dz.$$

Where C^* is the part of C , whose initial and terminal points are P and Q .

Let now $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{F}$, a variable force acting on a particle which moves along a curve C . Then, the work W done by the force \mathbf{F} in displacing the particle from the point P to the point Q along the curve C is given by

$$W = \int_P^Q \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_{C^*} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r},$$

where C^* is the part of C , whose initial and terminal points are P and Q .

Example: Find the work done by the force $\mathbf{F} = -xy \mathbf{i} + y^2 \mathbf{j} + z \mathbf{k}$ in moving a particle over the circular path $x^2 + y^2 = 4, z = 0$ from $(2, 0, 0)$ to $(0, 2, 0)$.

Solution: The parametric representation of the given curve is $x = 2 \cos t$, $y = 2 \sin t$, $z = 0$, $0 \leq t \leq \pi/2$. Therefore, work done W is given by

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C -xy \, dx + y^2 \, dy + z \, dz \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} [-4 \sin t \cos t (-2 \sin t) + 4 \sin^2 t (2 \cos t)] \, dt \\ &= 16 \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^2 t \cos t \, dt \\ &= 16 \left[\frac{1}{3} \sin^3 t \right]_0^{\pi/2} = \frac{16}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Line Integrals independent of the path

We have seen that the value of $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ or $\int_C f dx + g dy + h dz$ depends not only on the end points P and Q of the curve C but also on the path of C . We shall now discuss the conditions under which the line integral is independent of the path of integration, that is, it depends only on the end points P and Q of the curve C .

Let $\phi(x, y, z)$ be a differentiable scalar function. The differential of $\phi(x, y, z)$ is defined by

$$d\phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} dz = (\text{grad } \phi) \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

Therefore, a differential expression

$f(x, y, z)dx + g(x, y, z)dy + h(x, y, z)dz$ is an exact differential if there exists a scalar function $\phi(x, y, z)$ such that

$$d\phi = f(x, y, z)dx + g(x, y, z)dy + h(x, y, z)dz$$

We now present the result (with out proof) on the independence of the path of a line integral.

Theorem: Let C be a curve in a simply connected domain D in space. Let f , g and h be continuous functions having continuous first partial derivatives in D . Then $\int_C f dx + g dy + h dz$ is independent of path C if and only if the integrand is an exact differential in D .

We now state the conditions for testing the path independence.

Theorem: Let C be a curve in a simply connected domain D in space. Let f , g and h be continuous functions having

continuous first partial derivatives in D . Then $\int_C f dx + g dy + h dz$ is independent of path C if and only if

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}, \text{ and } \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}.$$

Remark

If we define $\mathbf{F} = f\mathbf{i} + g\mathbf{j} + h\mathbf{k}$ then we can write

$$\int_C f dx + g dy + h dz = \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}.$$

If the line integral is path independent, then $\mathbf{F} = \text{grad}(\phi)$. Hence, $\text{curl}(\mathbf{F}) = \text{curl}(\text{grad } \phi) = 0$. We say that the given vector field \mathbf{F} is a gradient field and the function ϕ is called the potential function for \mathbf{F} . Therefore, in a gradient force field, the work done by force \mathbf{F} in moving a particle from a position P to a position Q is independent of the path of integration, that is, it is same for all paths. Such a force field is also called a conservative field, that is

Total energy = Kinetic energy + potential energy = constant

Remark

In two dimensions, the conditions for testing the path independence of $\int_C f dx + g dy$ reduce to $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$.

Example: Show that $\int_C (yz - 1)dx + (z + xy + z^2)dy + (y + xy + 2yz)dz$ is independent of the path of integration from $(1,2,2)$ to $(2,3,4)$. Evaluate the integral.

Solution: We have $f(x, y, z) = yz - 1$, $g(x, y, z) = z + xz + z^2$ and $h(x, y, z) = y + xy + 2yz$

Now, $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = z = \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = y = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}$, and $\frac{\partial g}{\partial z} = 1 + x + 2z = \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}$

The integral is independent of path of integration. Also, the integrand is an exact differential. Therefore, there exists a function $\phi(x, y, z)$ such that

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = yz - 1, \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = z + xz + z^2, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = y + xy + 2yz$$

Integrating the first equation with respect to x , we get

$$\phi(x, y, z) = xyz - x + h(y, z).$$

Substituting in the second equation, we get

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = z + xz + z^2 = xz + \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}(y, z), \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = z + z^2.$$

Integrating, we get

$$h(y, z) = yz + yz^2 + s(z), \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(x, y, z) = xyz - x + yz + yz^2 + s(z)$$

Substituting in the third equation, we get

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = y + xy + 2yz + \frac{ds}{dz} = y + xy + 2yz, \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{ds}{dz} = 0, \quad \text{or} \quad s = k, \quad \text{constant.}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \phi(x, y, z) = xyz - x + yz + yz^2 + k.$$

The value of the integral is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_c (yz - 1)dx + (z + xz + z^2)dy + (y + xy + 2yz)dz \\ = \int_{(-1,2)}^{(2,3)} d(xyz - x + yz + yz^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$= [xyz - x + yz + yz^2]_{(1,2,2)}^{(2,3,4)} = 82 - 15 = 67.$$

Conservative Field

A vector \mathbf{F} is called a conservative vector field if \mathbf{F} can be written as $\mathbf{F} = \text{grad} f$, where f is a scalar potential (field). Then, the work done

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_{C^*} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_{C^*} (\text{grad } f) \cdot d\mathbf{r} \\ &= \int_{C^*} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} dz \right) = \int_P^Q df = [f(x, y, z)]_P^Q. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, work done depends only the initial and terminal points of the curve C^* , that is the work done is independent of the path of integration. The units of work depend on the units $|\mathbf{F}|$ and on the units of distance.

Remark

The necessary and sufficient condition that a field \mathbf{F} be conservative is that $\text{curl} \mathbf{F} = \nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{0}$.

Remark

If \mathbf{F} is a conservative force field, the work done along any simple closed path is zero.

Problem 1: Suppose $\mathbf{A} = (3x^2 + 6y)\mathbf{i} - 14yz\mathbf{j} + 20xz^2\mathbf{k}$. Evaluate $\int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(1, 1, 1)$ along the following paths C :

- (a) $x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$.
- (b) The straight lines from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(1, 0, 0)$, then to $(1, 1, 0)$, and then to $(1, 1, 1)$.
- (c) The straight line joining $(0, 0, 0)$ and $(1, 1, 1)$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_C [(3x^2 + 6y)\mathbf{i} - 14yz\mathbf{j} + 20xz^2\mathbf{k}] \cdot (dx\mathbf{i} + dy\mathbf{j} + dz\mathbf{k}) \\ &= \int_C (3x^2 + 6y)dx - 14yzdy + 20xz^2dz.\end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_{t=0}^1 (3t^2 + 6t^2)dt - 14(t^2)(t^3)d(t^3) + 20(t)(t^3)^2d(t^3) \\ &= \int_{t=0}^1 9t^2 dt - 28t^6 dt + 60t^9 dt \\ &= \int_{t=0}^1 (9t^2 - 28t^6 + 60t^9)dt = 3t^3 - 4t^7 + 6t^{10} \Big|_0^1 = 5.\end{aligned}$$

Another method:

Along C , $\mathbf{A} = 9t^2\mathbf{i} - 14t^5\mathbf{j} + 20t^7\mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} = t\mathbf{i} + t^2\mathbf{j} + t^3\mathbf{k}$ and $d\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{i} + 2t\mathbf{j} + 3t^2\mathbf{k})dt$.

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_{t=0}^1 (9t^2\mathbf{i} - 14t^5\mathbf{j} + 20t^7\mathbf{k}) \cdot (\mathbf{i} + 2t\mathbf{j} + 3t^2\mathbf{k})dt \\ &= \int_0^1 (9t^2 - 28t^6 + 60t^9) dt = 5.\end{aligned}$$

(b) Along the straight line from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(1, 0, 0)$, $y = 0$, $z = 0$, $dy = 0$, $dz = 0$ while x varies from 0 to 1. Then the integral over this part of the path is

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{x=0}^1 (3x^2 + 6(0))dx - 14(0)(0)(0) + 20x(0)^2(0) &= \int_{x=0}^1 3x^2 dx \\ &= x^3 \Big|_0^1 = 1. \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)\end{aligned}$$

Along the straight line from $(1, 0, 0)$ to $(1, 1, 0)$, $x = 1$, $z = 0$, $dx = 0$, $dz = 0$ while y varies from 0 to 1. Then the integral over this part of the path is

$$\int_{y=0}^1 (3(1)^2 + 6y)0 - 14y(0)dy + 20(1)(0)^2 0 = \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

Along the straight line from $(1, 1, 0)$ to $(1, 1, 1)$, $x = 1$, $y = 1$, $dx = 0$, $dy = 0$ while z varies from 0 to 1. Then the integral over this part of the path is

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{z=0}^1 (3(1)^2 + 6(1))0 - 14(1)z(0) + 20(1)z^2 dz \\ = \int_{z=0}^1 20z^2 dz = \frac{20z^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{20}{3}. \quad \dots\dots\dots(3)\end{aligned}$$

Adding (1),(2) and (3), then

$$\int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = 1 + 0 + \frac{20}{3} = \frac{23}{3}.$$

(c) The straight line joining $(0, 0, 0)$ and $(1, 1, 1)$ is given in parametric form by $x = t$, $y = t$, $z = t$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_{t=0}^1 (3t^2 + 6t)dt - 14(t)(t)dt + 20(t)(t)^2 dt \\ &= \int_{t=0}^1 (3t^2 + 6t - 14t^2 + 20t^3)dt \\ &= \int_{t=0}^1 (6t - 11t^2 + 20t^3)dt = \frac{13}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

Problem 2: Find the total work done in moving a particle in the force field given by $\mathbf{F} = z\mathbf{i} + z\mathbf{j} + x\mathbf{k}$ along the helix C given by $x = \cos t$, $y = \sin t$, $z = t$ from $t = 0$ to $t = \pi/2$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total work} &= \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C (z\mathbf{i} + z\mathbf{j} + x\mathbf{k}) \cdot (dx\mathbf{i} + dy\mathbf{j} + dz\mathbf{k}) \\ &= \int_C zdx + zdy + xdz \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} (t \, d(\cos t) + t \, d(\sin t) + \cos t \, dt) \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} (-t \sin t) dt + \int_0^{\pi/2} (t + 1) \cos t \, dt\end{aligned}$$

Evaluating $\int_0^{\pi/2} (-t \sin t) dt$ by parts we get

$$[t \cos t]_0^{\pi/2} - \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos t \, dt = 0 - [\sin t]_0^{\pi/2} = -1.$$

Evaluating $\int_0^{\pi/2} (t + 1) \cos t \, dt$ by parts we get

$$[(t + 1) \sin t]_0^{\pi/2} - \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin t \, dt = \frac{\pi}{2} + 1 + [\cos t]_0^{\pi/2} = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Thus the total work is $(\pi / 2) - 1$.

Problem 3: Suppose a force field is given by

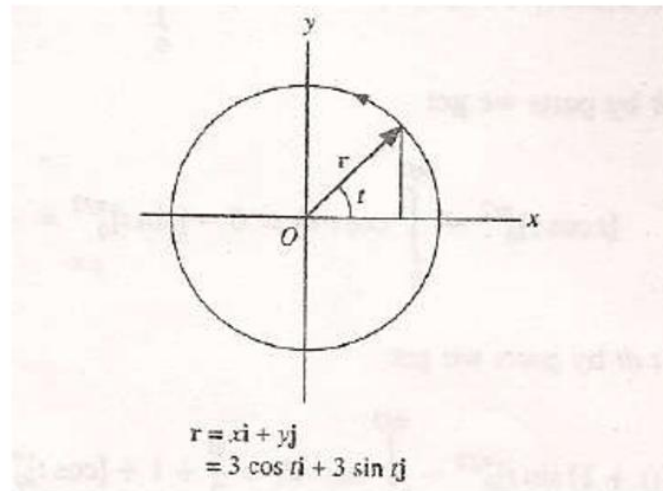
$$\mathbf{F} = (2x - y + z)\mathbf{i} + (x + y - z^2)\mathbf{j} + (3x - 2y + 4z)\mathbf{k}$$

Find the work done in moving a particle once around a circle C in the XY -plane with its centre at the origin and a radius of 3.

Solution:

In the plane $z = 0$, $\mathbf{F} = (2x - y)\mathbf{i} + (x + y)\mathbf{j} + (3x - 2y)\mathbf{k}$ and $d\mathbf{r} = dx\mathbf{i} + dy\mathbf{j}$ so that the work done is

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_C [(2x - y)\mathbf{i} + (x + y)\mathbf{j} + (3x - 2y)\mathbf{k}] \cdot (dx\mathbf{i} + dy\mathbf{j}) \\ &= \int_C (2x - y)dx + (x + y)dy\end{aligned}$$



Choose the parametric equations of the circle as $x = 3 \cos t$, $y = 3 \sin t$, where t varies from 0 to 2π (as in above figure). Then the line integral equals

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{t=0}^{2\pi} [2(3 \cos t) - 3 \sin t](-3 \sin t) dt + (3 \cos t + 3 \sin t)(3 \cos t) dt \\ = \int_0^{2\pi} (9 - 9 \sin t \cos t) dt = 9t - \frac{9}{2} \sin^2 t \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 18\pi .\end{aligned}$$

In traversing \mathcal{C} , we have chosen the counter clockwise direction indicated in the adjoining figure. We call this the positive direction, or say that \mathcal{C} has been traversed in the positive sense. If \mathcal{C} were traversed in the clockwise (negative) direction the value of the integral would be -18π .

Problem 4: Show that a necessary and sufficient condition that $F_1 dx + F_2 dy + F_3 dz$ be an exact differential is that $\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = 0$, where $\mathbf{F} = F_1 \mathbf{i} + F_2 \mathbf{j} + F_3 \mathbf{k}$.

Solution:

Suppose $F_1 dx + F_2 dy + F_3 dz = d\phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} dz$

an exact differential. Then since x , y and z are independent variables,

$$F_1 = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \quad F_2 = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}, \quad F_3 = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$$

and so $\mathbf{F} = F_1 \mathbf{i} + F_2 \mathbf{j} + F_3 \mathbf{k} = \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}\right) \mathbf{i} + \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}\right) \mathbf{j} + \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}\right) \mathbf{k} = \nabla \phi$.

Thus $\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \nabla \times \nabla \phi = 0$.

Conversely, if $\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = 0$, then we have $\mathbf{F} = \nabla \phi$ and so $\mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \nabla \phi \cdot d\mathbf{r}$, that is, $F_1 dx + F_2 dy + F_3 dz = d\phi$, an exact differential.

Problem 5: Suppose $\phi = 2xyz^2$, $\mathbf{F} = xy\mathbf{i} - z\mathbf{j} + x^2\mathbf{k}$ and C is the curve $x = t^2$, $y = 2t$, $z = t^3$ from $t = 0$ to $t = 1$. Evaluate the line integrals (a) $\int_C \phi d\mathbf{r}$ (b) $\int_C \mathbf{F} \times d\mathbf{r}$.

Solution:

(a) Along C , $\phi = 2xyz^2 = 2(t^2)(2t)(t^3)^2 = 4t^9$
 $\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} = t^2\mathbf{i} + 2t\mathbf{j} + t^3\mathbf{k}$, and
 $d\mathbf{r} = (2t\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3t^2\mathbf{k})dt$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \phi d\mathbf{r} &= \int_{t=0}^1 4t^9 (2t\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3t^2\mathbf{k}) dt \\ &= \mathbf{i} \int_0^1 8t^{10} dt + \mathbf{j} \int_0^1 8t^9 dt + \mathbf{k} \int_0^1 12t^{11} dt \\ &= \frac{8}{11}\mathbf{i} + \frac{4}{5}\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}.\end{aligned}$$

(b) Along C , we have $\mathbf{F} = xy\mathbf{i} - z\mathbf{j} + x^2\mathbf{k} = 2t^3\mathbf{i} - t^3\mathbf{j} + t^4\mathbf{k}$

Then $\mathbf{F} \times d\mathbf{r} = (2t^3\mathbf{i} - t^3\mathbf{j} + t^4\mathbf{k}) \times (2t\mathbf{i} - t^3\mathbf{j} + t^4\mathbf{k})dt$

$$\begin{aligned}&= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2t^3 & -t^3 & t^4 \\ 2t & 2 & 3t^2 \end{vmatrix} dt \\ &= [(-3t^5 - 2t^4)\mathbf{i} + (2t^5 - 6t^5)\mathbf{j} + (4t^3 + 2t^4)\mathbf{k}]dt\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{F} \times d\mathbf{r} &= \mathbf{i} \int_0^1 (-3t^5 - 2t^4) dt + \mathbf{j} \int_0^1 (-4t^5) dt + \mathbf{k} \int_0^1 (4t^3 + 2t^4) dt \\ &= -\frac{9}{10}\mathbf{i} - \frac{2}{3}\mathbf{j} + \frac{7}{5}\mathbf{k}.\end{aligned}$$

Exercise

1. Find the mass of the string C defined by $x = 3 \cos t, y = 3 \sin t, 0 \leq t \leq \pi / 2$, where the density function of C is $x^2 y$.
2. Evaluate the line integral of $\mathbf{V} = xy\mathbf{i} + y^2\mathbf{j} + e^z\mathbf{k}$ over the curve C whose parametric representation is given by $x = t^2, y = 2t, z = t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$.
3. Show that $\int_C \frac{xdx + ydy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$ is independent of any path of integration which does not pass through the origin. Find the value of the integral from the point $P(-1,2)$ to the point $Q(2,3)$.
4. Suppose $\mathbf{F} = -3x^2\mathbf{i} + 5xy\mathbf{j}$. Evaluate $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$, where C is the curve in the XY -plane, $y = 2x^2$, from $(0,0)$ to $(1,2)$.
5. Show that in an irrotational field, the value of a line integral between two points A and B will be independent of the path of integration.
6. Find the work done by the force $\mathbf{F} = (3x^2 - 6yz)\mathbf{i} + (2y + 3xz)\mathbf{j} + (1 - 4xyz^2)\mathbf{k}$ in moving particle from the point $(0,0,0)$ to the point $(1,1,1)$ along the curve $C: x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$.
7. If $\mathbf{F} = (4xy - 3x^2z^2)\mathbf{i} + 2x^2\mathbf{j} - 2x^3z\mathbf{k}$, prove that $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ is independent of the curve joining two points
8. If $\mathbf{F} = (x^2 + y^2)\mathbf{i} - 2xy\mathbf{j}$ evaluate $\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ where curve C is the rectangle in XY -plane bounded by $y = 0, y = b, x = 0, x = a$
9. Compute the line integral $\int (y^2 dx - x^2 dy)$ round the triangle whose vertices are $(1,0), (0,1), (-1,0)$ in the XY -plane.

10. If $\mathbf{F} = 2y\mathbf{i} - z\mathbf{j} + x\mathbf{k}$, evaluate $\int_c \mathbf{F} \times d\mathbf{r}$ along the curve $x = \cos t, y = \sin t, z = 2\cos t$ from $t = 0$ to $t = \pi/2$.
11. Prove that force given by $\mathbf{F} = 2xyz^3\mathbf{i} + x^2z^3\mathbf{j} + 3x^2yz^2\mathbf{k}$ is conservative. find the work done by moving a particle from $(1, -1, 2)$ to $(3, 2, -1)$ in this force field.

Answers

1. 27
2. $\frac{37}{15} + e$
3. $\sqrt{13} - \sqrt{5}$
4. 7
6. 2
8. $-2ab^2$
9. $-\frac{2}{3}$
10. $\mathbf{i}\left(2 - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) + \mathbf{j}\left(\pi - \frac{1}{2}\right)$
11. -10