

## Stokes's theorem

Stokes's theorem equates a surface integral of the curl of a function with a line integral of the same function. In rectangular coordinates the equivalence is

$$\iint_S (\text{curl } \mathbf{F}) \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d\sigma = \oint (P \, dx + Q \, dy + R \, dz)$$

where  $\mathbf{F} = (P, Q, R)$ . For  $S$  parametrized by  $x$  and  $y$  we have

$$\mathbf{n} \, d\sigma = \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} \times \frac{\partial S}{\partial y} \right) dx \, dy$$

For example, let  $\mathbf{F} = (y, z, x)$  and let  $S$  be the part of the paraboloid  $z = 4 - x^2 - y^2$  that is above the  $xy$  plane. The perimeter of the paraboloid is the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 2$ . The following script computes both the surface and line integrals. Polar coordinates are used for the line integral so that `defint` can succeed.

```
"Surface integral"
z = 4 - x^2 - y^2
F = (y,z,x)
S = (x,y,z)
z = quote(z) -- clear z for use by curl
f = dot(curl(F),cross(d(S,x),d(S,y)))
x = r cos(theta)
y = r sin(theta)
defint(f r, r, 0, 2, theta, 0, 2 pi)
```

```
"Line integral"
x = 2 cos(t)
y = 2 sin(t)
z = 4 - x^2 - y^2
P = y
Q = z
R = x
f = P d(x,t) + Q d(y,t) + R d(z,t)
f = circexp(f)
defint(f, t, 0, 2 pi)
```

This is the result when the script runs. Both the surface integral and the line integral yield the same result.

Surface integral

$-4\pi$

Line integral

$-4\pi$