

Elementary Number Theory Course Notes

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1 Quadratic Residues and Non-Residues

Consider the equation $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$.

Definition 1.0.1. Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, p be an odd prime, $p \nmid a$. $a \pmod{p}$ is a **quadratic residue (QR) mod p** if for some $x \in \mathbb{Z}$, $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$.

If there doesn't exist such an x , $a \pmod{p}$ is a **quadratic non-residue (NQR)**.

Lemma 1.0.2. For p an odd prime, there are $\frac{p-1}{2}$ QRs and $\frac{p-1}{2}$ NQRs.

Proof. Define the map $f : \{1, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\} \rightarrow Q$, $f(x) := x^2 \pmod{p}$, where $Q := \{x^2 \pmod{p} : x \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is the set of all QRs.

f is clearly surjective, since $\{x^2 \pmod{p} : 1 \leq x \leq p-1\} = \{x^2 \pmod{p} : 1 \leq x \leq \frac{p-1}{2}\}$, since if $\frac{p+1}{2} \leq x \leq p-1$, $-x \pmod{p} \in \{1, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\}$ and $x^2 \equiv (-x)^2 \pmod{p}$.

Suppose that $f(a) = f(b)$, so $a^2 \equiv b^2 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow (a-b)(a+b) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. $2 \leq a+b \leq p-1$ so $a+b \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, hence $a \equiv b \pmod{p} \Rightarrow a = b$.

So f surjective and injective so is bijective, so $|Q| = \frac{p-1}{2}$. The remaining $\frac{p-1}{2}$ elements are the NQRs. \square

Lemma 1.0.3. Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, p be an odd prime, $p \nmid ab$. Let Q denote the QRs mod p and N denote the NQRs mod p .

1. If $a \in Q$ and $b \in Q$ then $ab \in Q$.
2. If $a \in Q$ and $b \in N$, then $ab \in N$.
3. If $a \in N$ and $b \in N$, then $ab \in Q$.

Proof.

1. If $a \in Q$ and $b \in Q$, for some $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $y \in \mathbb{Z}$, $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$ and $y^2 \equiv b \pmod{p}$, so $ab \equiv x^2 y^2 \pmod{p} \equiv (xy)^2 \pmod{p}$ so for some z , $z^2 \equiv ab \pmod{p}$ ($z = xy$). So $ab \in Q$.
2. Suppose $ab \notin N$, for $a \in Q$, $b \in N$. Since $ab \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, $ab \in Q$. So for some $w \in \mathbb{Z}$, $ab \equiv w^2 \pmod{p}$. Since $a \in Q$, for some $t \in \mathbb{Z}$, $a \equiv t^2 \pmod{p}$ so $t^2 b \equiv w^2 \pmod{p}$. Cancelling t^2 on both sides, $b \equiv w^2 t^{-2} \pmod{p} \equiv (wt^{-1})^2 \pmod{p}$. But $b \in N$, so we have a contradiction.
3. We write $a^{-1} \cdot Q := \{1 \leq b \leq p-1 : a \cdot b \in Q\} = \{a^{-1}x : x \in Q \text{ (} a^{-1} \text{ is such that } a^{-1}a \equiv 1 \pmod{p})\}$.

As $a \in N$, $a^{-1} \in N$ (if $a^{-1} \in Q$ then as $a \in N$, 2. implies that $a^{-1}a \equiv 1 \in N \pmod{p}$ which is not true since $1 \equiv 1^2 \pmod{p}$).

Thus for every $x \in Q$, $a^{-1}x \in N \Rightarrow a^{-1}Q \subseteq N$.

$a^{-1}x \equiv a^{-1}y \pmod{p} \Rightarrow x \equiv y \pmod{p}$. AS $1 \leq x, y \leq p-1$, $x = y$. Thus, the map $Q \rightarrow a^{-1}Q$ given by $x \rightarrow a^{-1}x$ is injective and bijective.

Therefore $|a^{-1}Q| = |Q| = |N| \Rightarrow a^{-1}Q = N$ so if $b \in N$, $b \in a^{-1}Q$ so $ab \in Q$.

\square

Definition 1.0.4. Let p be an odd prime. The **Legendre symbol** written as $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$ is defined for $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ as

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p|a \\ 1 & \text{if } p \in Q \\ -1 & \text{if } p \in N \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Properties of the Legendre symbol:

- (multiplicativity): if $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ then

$$\left(\frac{ab}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right)\left(\frac{b}{p}\right)$$

- (periodicity mod p): if $a \equiv b \pmod{p}$ then

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{b}{p}\right)$$

Theorem 1.0.5. (Euler's criterion): if p is an odd prime and $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $p \nmid a$ then

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \pmod{p}$$

Proof. Let g be a primitive root mod p .

$\{g^r \pmod{p} : 1 \leq r \leq p-1\} = 1, \dots, p-1 \Rightarrow \{g^{2r} : 1 \leq r \leq \frac{p-1}{2}\}$ gives the QRs uniquely. There are the following cases:

1. a is a QR. Then for some $1 \leq r \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$, $g^{2r} \equiv a \pmod{p}$. Then

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (g^{2r})^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (g^r)^{p-1} \equiv (g^{p-1})^r \equiv 1^r \equiv 1 \equiv \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \pmod{p}$$

2. a is not a QR. Then for some $1 \leq r \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$, $a \equiv g^{2r-1} \pmod{p}$. So $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (g^{2r})^{\frac{p-1}{2}} g^{\frac{p-1}{2}}$.

But $x = g^{-\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$, since $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow x \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{p}$ and since g is primitive, $x \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.

So $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv -1 \pmod{p} \equiv \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \pmod{p}$

□

Remark. Euler's criterion is hard to use if p is large.

Corollary 1.0.6. -1 is a QR mod p iff $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. $(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) \pmod{p}$ by Euler's criterion. The power $\frac{p-1}{2}$ is even iff $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \Rightarrow (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = 1$ iff $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. □

Theorem 1.0.7. (Law of quadratic reciprocity - QRL): Let p, q be distinct odd primes. Then

$$\left(\frac{p}{q}\right)\left(\frac{q}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2} \cdot \frac{q-1}{2}}$$

Proof. TODO

□

Corollary 1.0.8.

$$\left(\frac{2}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p^2-1}{8}}$$

1.1 Algorithm for computing $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$

p is an odd prime, $a \in \mathbb{Z}$. TODO: make this clearer.

1. Use the division algorithm to divide $a = kp + r$, $0 \leq r \leq p-1$, hence $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{r}{p}\right)$.
2. If $r = 0$ or $r = 1$, $\left(\frac{0}{p}\right) = 0$, $\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) = 1$ so we are done.
3. If $r \neq 0$ and $r \neq 1$, factor $r = p_1^{a_1} \dots p_k^{a_k}$, then $\left(\frac{r}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p_1}{p}\right)^{a_1} \dots \left(\frac{p_k}{p}\right)^{a_k}$
4. If $2|a_i$, then $\left(\frac{p_i}{p}\right)^{a_i} = 1$.
5. If $2 \nmid a_i$, $\left(\frac{p_i}{p}\right)^{a_i} = \left(\frac{p_i}{p}\right)$
6. If $p_i = 2$, use the above corollary: $\left(\frac{2}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p^2-1}{8}}$.
7. If $p_i \neq 2$, use QRL to write $\left(\frac{p_i}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{p_i}\right)(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2} \cdot \frac{p_i-1}{2}}$ and go to step 1 to calculate $\left(\frac{p}{p_i}\right)$

1.2 Application of Legendre Symbols

Theorem 1.2.1. There are infinitely many primes of the form $4n + 1$.

Proof. Assume the contrary, so let $p_1 < \dots < p_k$ be a finite list of primes, with $p_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ for every i .

Let $N = (2p_1 \dots p_k)^2 + 1$. Since $N > 1$, for some prime p , $p|N$. $p \neq p_i$ for every i . $N \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, hence $(2p_1 \dots p_k)^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$. Thus -1 is a QR mod p .

By Euler's criterion, $(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, so $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

But $p \notin \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$ and $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ so we have a contradiction. \square

2 Sums of two squares

2.1 Sums of two squares

Given $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, can we represent n as a sum of two squares, i.e. do there exist $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a^2 + b^2 = n$.

Equivalently, find solutions $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ to the equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = n$$

Lemma 2.1.1. If n, m are both sums of two squares, so is $n \cdot m$.

Proof. Let $n = a^2 + b^2$, $m = c^2 + d^2$, $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $nm = (a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = (a^2c^2 + b^2d^2) + (b^2c^2 + a^2d^2) = (ac + bd)^2 - b^2c^2 + a^2d^2 - 2acbd = (ac + bd)^2 - (ad - bc)^2$ \square

Corollary 2.1.2. If $n = p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_k^{e_k}$ and all the powers $p_i^{e_i}$ are sums of two squares then n is also.

We focus on prime powers: $n = p^a$.

If $a = 2b$, $b \in \mathbb{N}$, then $n = p^{2b} = (p^b)^2 = (p^b)^2 + 0^2$ so n is a sum of two squares.

If $a = 2b + 1$, $n = (p^b)^2 \cdot p$.

If $n = p$ is a prime, is n a sum of two squares.

Theorem 2.1.3. A prime p is a sum of two squares iff either $p = 2$ or $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow): For every n , $n^2 \equiv 0$ or $1 \pmod{4}$

Therefore if $p = x^2 + y^2$, $p = x^2 + y^2 \pmod{4} \in \{0, 1, 2\}$. The only p equivalent to 0 or 2 $\pmod{4}$ is $p = 2$, otherwise, $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

(\Leftarrow): Suppose $p = 2$ or $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. If $p = 2$, $p = 1^2 + 1^2$. If $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, $\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) = 1$, so we can solve $u^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, $1 \leq u \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$. We will find small $A, B \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that $A^2 + B^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ using u . If $0 < A^2 + B^2 < 2p$, $A^2 + B^2 = p$.

Let $k = \text{floor}(\sqrt{p})$, so $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k < \sqrt{p} < k + 1$. Consider the set $\{a + b \cdot u \pmod{p} : 0 \leq a, b \leq k\}$. There are $(k + 1)^2$ pairs (a, b) . Since $(k + 1)^2 > (\sqrt{p})^2 = p$. By the pigeon-hole principle, we can find two pairs $(a_1, b_1) \neq (a_2, b_2)$ such that $a_1 + b_1u \equiv a_2 + b_2u \pmod{p}$.

So $(b_2 - b_1)u \equiv a_1 - a_2 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow Bu \equiv \pm A \pmod{p}$ where $B = |b_2 - b_1| \leq k < \sqrt{p}$, $A = |a_1 - a_2| \leq k < \sqrt{p}$ and at least one of A and B is > 0 .

So $A^2 + B^2 \equiv (Bu)^2 + B^2 \equiv B^2(u^2 + 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

Since at least one of A and B is > 0 , $A^2 + B^2 > 0$. Since $A, B < \sqrt{p}$, $A^2 + B^2 < 2p$. Also, $p | (A^2 + B^2)$, hence $A^2 + B^2 = p$. \square

Corollary 2.1.4. A positive integer $n > 1$ written as $n = m^2 p_1 \cdots p_k$, with p_1, \dots, p_k distinct primes (n can always be written in this way) is a sum of two squares iff for every p_i either $p_i = 2$ or $p_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Remark. There is a theorem due to Lagrange that says that every $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ can be represented as the sum of four squares.

3 Continued Fractions

3.1 Pell equations

Definition 3.1.1. A **Pell equation** is an equation of the form $x^2 - dy^2 = \pm 1$, where $d \geq 1$ is not a square.

Remark. If $x, y \neq 0$ and both are large, then as $(x - \sqrt{d}y)(x + \sqrt{d}y) = x^2 - dy^2 = \pm 1$,

$$\left| \frac{x}{y} - \sqrt{d} \right| \left| \frac{x}{y} + \sqrt{d} \right| = \left| \left(\frac{x}{y} \right)^2 - d \right| = \frac{1}{y^2}$$

So if $x^2 - dy^2 = \pm 1$ has a solution $(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}_0^2$, then $\frac{x}{y}$ approximates $\pm \sqrt{d}$.

3.2 Continued fractions

Definition 3.2.1. A **finite continued fraction (finite CF)** is an expression of the form

$$[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n] = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_n}}$$

where $a_j \in \mathbb{R}$, $n \geq 0$.

Mostly, $a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{N}$. In this case, $[a_0, \dots, a_n]$ is called an **ellipse**.

Proposition 3.2.2. Any $\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q}$ can be expressed as a finite CF.

Proof. (Not a full proof). Suppose for simplicity that $a \geq b$ (if not, take $a_0 = 0$). By the division algorithm, $a = a_0b + r_1$, $0 \leq r_1 < b$ hence $\frac{a}{b} = a_0 + \frac{r_1}{b} = a_0 + \frac{1}{b/r_1}$.

Now divide b by r_1 : $b = a_1r_1 + r_2$, $0 \leq r_2 < r_1$, so $\frac{b}{r_1} = a_1 + \frac{r_2}{r_1}$ so

$$\frac{a}{b} = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{r_1/r_2}}$$

We continue with this: $r_i = a_{i+1}r_{i+1} + r_{i+2}$ until r_{i+1} divides r_1 (i.e. $r_{i+2} = 0$). This must occur as $0 \leq r_{i+1} < r_i$.

The continued fraction is $[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]$ where $r_{n+1} = 0$. □

Definition 3.2.3. Given a finite CF $\alpha = [a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]$, the a_i are called **partial quotients** of α .

The truncated CF's $[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_j] = \frac{p_j}{q_j}$, with $0 \leq j \leq n$, $p_j \in \mathbb{Z}$, $q_j \in \mathbb{N}$, are called the **convergents** of α .

For $j = 0, j = 1$ we have $\frac{p_0}{q_0} = [a_0] = a_0 \Rightarrow p_0 = a_0, q_0 = 1$.

$\frac{p_1}{q_1} = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1} = \frac{a_1a_0 + 1}{a_1} \Rightarrow p_1 = a_1a_0 + 1, q_1 = a_1$.

Proposition 3.2.4. Given a finite CF, $[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]$, $n \geq 1$, $[[p_k, p_{k-1}], [q_k, q_{k-1}]] = [[a_1, 1], [1, 0]] \cdots [[a_k, 1], [1, 0]]$ TODO: make these matrices.

Hence $p_0 = a_0$, $q_0 = 1$, $p_1 = a_0a_1 + 1$, $q_1 = a_1$, $p_k = a_kp_{k-1} + p_{k-2}$, $q_k = a_kq_{k-1} + q_{k-2}$.

Lemma 3.2.5. Let $\alpha = [a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]$ be a finite CF with convergents $\frac{p_k}{q_k}$, $0 \leq k \leq n$.

For every $k \geq 0$, $q_{k+1} \geq q_k$ and if $k \geq 1$ then $q_{k+1} > q_k$.

Proof. If $k = 0$, $q_1 = a_1 \geq 1 = q_0$. Inductively, if $q_{k-1} > 0$ for $k \geq 1$ then $q_{k+1} = a_{k+1}q_k + q_{k-1} \geq a_{k+1}q_k \geq q_k$ since $a_{k+1} \geq 1$. □

Lemma 3.2.6. For every $k \geq 1$, $p_k q_{k-1} - p_{k-1} q_k = (-1)^{k+1}$.

Proof. By the previous proposition,

$$[[p_k, p_{k-1}], [q_k, q_{k-1}]] = [[a_1, 1], [1, 0]] \cdots [[a_k, 1], [1, 0]]$$

$$\frac{p_k q_{k-1} - q_k p_{k-1}}{(-1)^{k+1}} = \det[[p_k, p_{k-1}], [q_k, q_{k-1}]] = \det[[a_1, 1], [1, 0]] \cdots \det[[a_k, 1], [1, 0]] = \square$$

Corollary 3.2.7. $\frac{p_k}{q_k} - \frac{p_{k-1}}{q_{k-1}} = \frac{p_k q_{k-1} - p_{k-1} q_k}{q_k q_{k-1}} = \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{q_k q_{k-1}}$
So the convergents get closer as k increases.

Proposition 3.2.8. The even-numbered convergents are growing: $\frac{p_0}{q_0} < \frac{p_2}{q_2} < \cdots$ and the odd-numbered convergents are decreasing: $\frac{p_1}{q_1} > \frac{p_3}{q_3} > \cdots$.

Moreover, for every $k \geq 1$ such that $2k + 1 \leq n$,

$$\frac{p_{2k}}{q_{2k}} \leq \alpha \leq \frac{p_{2k+1}}{q_{2k+1}}$$

and

$$\left| \alpha - \frac{p_m}{q_m} \right| \leq \frac{1}{q_m q_{m-1}}$$

for every $m \leq n - 1$.

Proof. TODO □

Definition 3.2.9. In general, if $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ (not necessarily rational), for $j > 0$:

1. $a_j := \text{floor}(\alpha_j)$ where $\{\alpha_j\} := \alpha_j - a_j$
2. Define $\alpha_{j+1} := \frac{1}{\{\alpha_j\}}$. ($\alpha_0 = \alpha$)

The continued fraction for α is $[a_0; a_1, a_2, \dots]$.

This could continue indefinitely if $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

Definition 3.2.10. An **infinite CF** is the limit, if it exists, of a sequence of finite CF's: $\{[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]\}_{n \geq 0}$ given a $\{a_i\}_{i \geq 0}$ with $\forall i, a_i \geq 1$.

Proposition 3.2.11. If $a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\forall i \geq 1, a_i \in \mathbb{N}$, then $\{[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]\}_{n \geq 0} \subset \mathbb{Q}$ converges.

Proof. Use the Cauchy criterion: $[a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n] = \frac{p_n}{q_n}$ are the convergents. $\forall m \geq 1, q_{m+1} > q_m, q_m \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $\alpha_n = \frac{p_n}{q_n}$. If $m \leq n$,

$$\left| \alpha_n - \frac{p_m}{q_m} \right| \leq \frac{1}{q_m q_{m+1}}$$

Let $\epsilon > 0$. Then for some N , if $m \geq N, q_{m+1} > q_m > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$. Then with $n \geq m \geq N$,

$$\left| \frac{p_n}{q_n} - \frac{p_m}{q_m} \right| \leq \frac{1}{q_m q_{m+1}} < \sqrt{\epsilon} \sqrt{\epsilon} = \epsilon$$

Thus $\{\frac{p_k}{q_k}\}_k$ is a Cauchy sequence. □

Definition 3.2.12. An infinite CF $\alpha = [a_0; a_1, a_2, \dots]$ is (eventually) periodic if for some $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $k \geq 1$, if $n > m$, $\forall j \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $a_{n+jk} = a_n$. That is,

$$\alpha = [a_0; a_1, \dots, a_m, a_{m+1}, \dots, a_{m+k}, \dots] = [a_0; \dots, a_m, \overline{a_{m+1}, \dots, a_{m+k}}]$$

k is the **period** of the CF of α .

Lemma 3.2.13. If $d \in \mathbb{N}$, d is not a square, the CF of \sqrt{d} is eventually periodic with initial part of length 1.

Theorem 3.2.14. The eventually periodic $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$ are precisely of the form $a + b\sqrt{d}$, $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$, $d \in \mathbb{N}$, d is not a square.

Example 3.2.15. Find simplified expression for $\alpha = [1; 3, \overline{4, 2}] = [1; 3, \beta]$.

$\beta = [4; 2, \beta]$ so

$$\beta = 4 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{\beta}} = 4 + \frac{\beta}{2\beta + 1}$$

so simplifying, we get $2\beta^2 - 8\beta - 4 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \beta^2 - 4\beta - 2 = 0$, which has a positive root $2 + \sqrt{6}$ (β must be positive).

This can be used to simplify the expression for α .

3.3 Application to Pell Equations

Theorem 3.3.1. Let $x^2 - dy^2 = \pm 1$, $d \in \mathbb{N}$, d is not a square. Suppose the CF of \sqrt{d} has period k .

If $\{\frac{p_m}{q_m}\}_{m \geq 0}$ are the convergents of \sqrt{d} . Then for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$p_{kn-1}^2 - dq_{kn-1}^2 = (-1)^{kn}$$

In particular, if k is even then $x^2 - dy^2 = 1$ has an infinite collection of solutions

$$(x, y) = (p_{kn-1}, q_{kn-1}), n \in \mathbb{N}_0$$

If k is odd then $x^2 - dy^2 = -1$ has solutions

$$(x, y) = (p_{(2n-1)k-1}, q_{(2n-1)k-1})$$

and $x^2 - dy^2 = 1$ has solutions

$$(x, y) = (p_{2kn-1}, q_{2kn-1})$$

3.4 Path independence of line integrals

In general, line integrals depend on the path between the end points. However, there is a type of vector field for which the line integral is **path independent**, known as a **conservative** vector field.

Example 3.4.1. Calculate the integral $\int_C \underline{F} \cdot d\underline{x}$ for $\underline{F} = (y \cos x, \sin y)$ between $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 1)$ on the paths C_1 , the straight line from $(0, 0)$ to $(1, 1)$ and C_2 , the straight line from $(0, 0)$ to $(1, 0)$ and then to $(1, 1)$.

C_1 is parameterised as $\underline{x}(t) = (t, t)$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ so $\frac{d\underline{x}}{dt} = (1, 1)$. $\underline{F}(\underline{x}(t)) = (t \cos t, \sin t)$ so

$$\int_{C_1} \underline{F} \cdot d\underline{x} = \int_0^1 \underline{F}(\underline{x}(t)) \cdot \frac{d\underline{x}}{dt} dt = \sin(1)$$