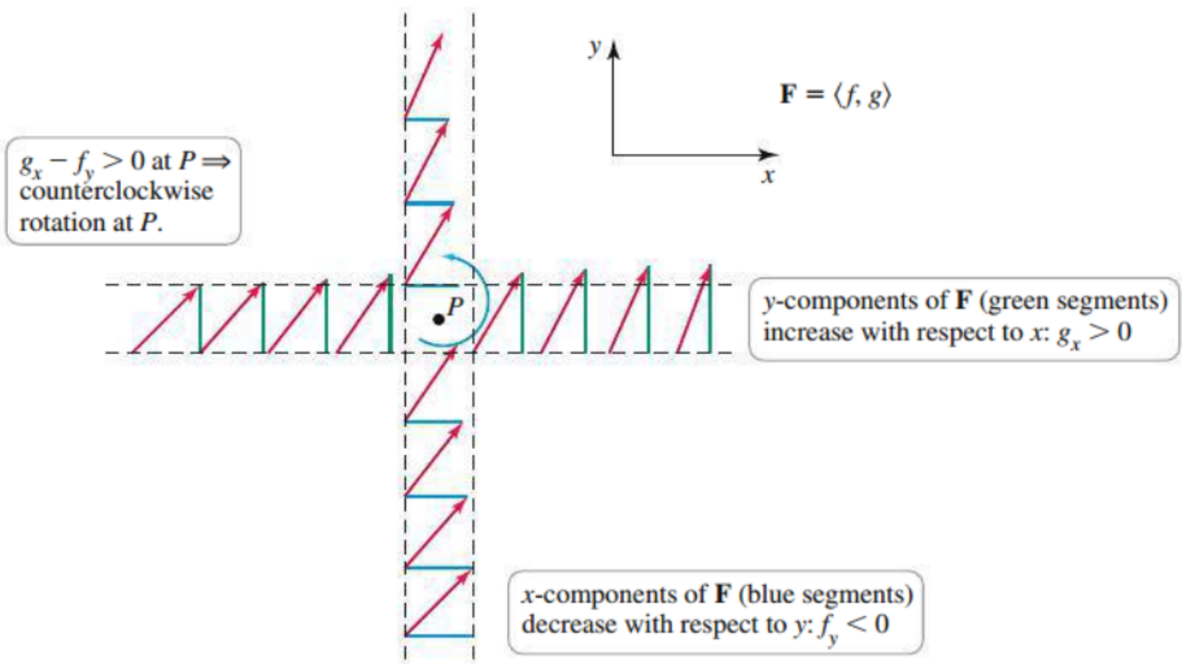
17.4: Green's Theorem

Green's Theorem — Circulation Form

Let C be a simple closed piecewise-smooth curve, oriented counterclockwise, that encloses a connected and simply connected region R in the plane. Assume $\mathbf{F} = \langle f, g \rangle$, where f and g have continuous first partial derivatives in R. Then

$$\underbrace{\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}}_{\text{circulation}} = \underbrace{\oint_C f\,dx + g\,dy}_{\text{circulation}} = \iint_R \left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) dA.$$

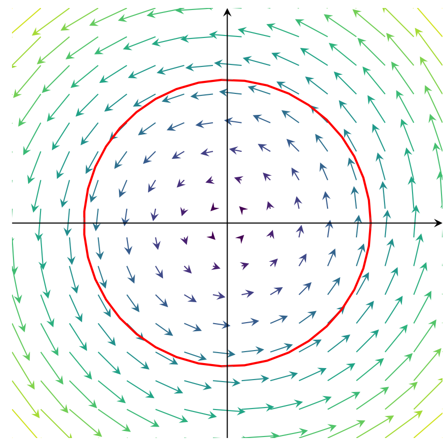


Definition. (Two-Dimensional Curl)

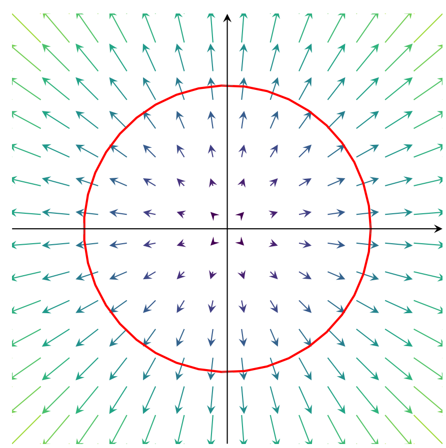
The **two-dimensional curl** of the vector field $\mathbf{F} = \langle f, g \rangle$ is $\dfrac{\partial g}{\partial x} - \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}$. If the curl is zero throughout a region, the vector field is **irrotational** on the region.

Example. Consider the following vector fields $\mathbf{F}$ over the region $R = \{(x,y) : x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}$. Compute the circulation using Green's Theorem.

$\mathbf{F} = \langle -y, x \rangle$



$\mathbf{F} = \langle x, y \rangle$



Example. Compute the curl of $\mathbf{F} = \left\langle x^2, 2y^2 \right\rangle$ where C is the upper half of the unit circle and the line segment $-1 \le x \le 1$.

Area of a Plane Region by Line Integrals
Under the conditions of Green's Theorem, the area of a region R enclosed by a curve C is

$$\oint_C x\,dy = -\oint_C y\,dx = \frac{1}{2}\oint_C (x\,dy - y\,dx).$$

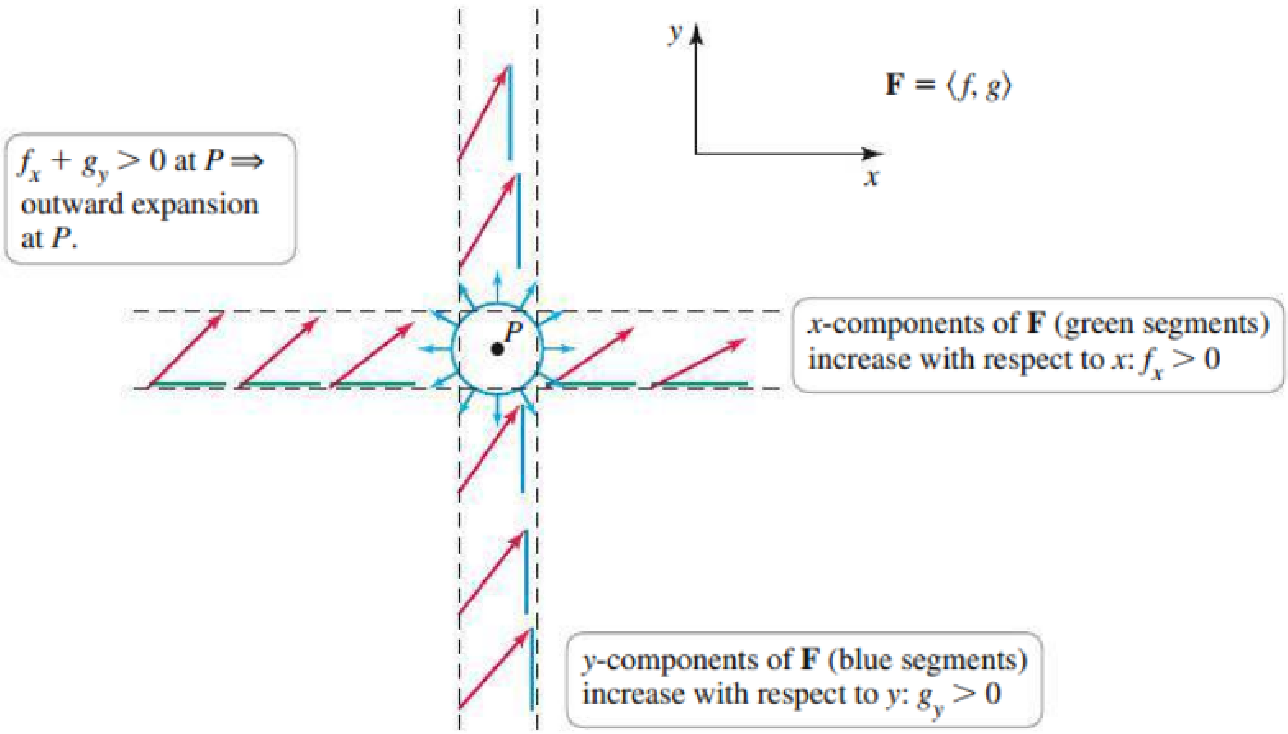
Example. Find the area of the ellipse $\dfrac{x^2}{a^2} + \dfrac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$.

Green's Theorem — Flux Form

Let C be a simple closed piecewise-smooth curve, oriented counterclockwise, that encloses a connected and simply connected region R in the plane. Assume $\mathbf{F} = \langle f, g \rangle$, where f and g have continuous first partial derivatives in R. Then

$$\underbrace{\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n}\, ds}_{\text{outward flux}} = \underbrace{\oint_C f\, dy - g\, dx}_{\text{outward flux}} = \iint_R \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \right) dA,$$

where $\mathbf{n}$ is the outward unit normal vector on the curve.



Definition. (Two-Dimensional Divergence)

The **two-dimensional divergence** of the vector field $\mathbf{F} = \langle f, g \rangle$ is $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \dfrac{\partial g}{\partial y}$. If the divergence is zero throughout a region, the vector field is **source free** on that region.

Example. Integrate $\oint_C \left(2x + e^{y^2}\right) dy - \left(4y^2 + e^{x^2}\right) dx$, where C is the boundary of the square with vertices $(0,0)$, $(1,0)$, $(1,1)$, and $(0,1)$.

Example. Compute the circulation and outward flux across the boundary of the given regions:

$\mathbf{F} = \langle x, y \rangle$; R is the half-annulus $\{(r, \theta) : 1 \le r \le 2, 0 \le \theta \le \pi\}$,

$\mathbf{F} = \langle -y, x \rangle$; R is the annulus $\{(r, \theta) : 1 \leq r \leq 3, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi\}$.

Stream functions:

In the same way that a vector field is conservative if there exists a potential function φ, a vector field is source free if a **stream function** ψ exists such that

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = f, \qquad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = -g.$$

If such a function exists, then the divergence is zero:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left(-\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}\right)}_{\psi_{yx} = \psi_{xy}} = 0$$

If a vector field is both conservative and source-free, then it has both a potential function and a stream function. Furthermore, the level curves of the potential and stream functions form orthogonal families. These vector fields have zero divergence

$$0 = f_x + g_y = \varphi_{xx} + \varphi_{yy},$$

and zero curl

$$0 = g_x - f_y = -\psi_{xx} - \psi_{yy}.$$

Thus, conservative, source-free vector fields satisfy **Laplace's equation**:

$$\varphi_{xx} + \varphi_{yy} = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \psi_{xx} + \psi_{yy} = 0.$$

Example. For $\mathbf{F} = \langle -e^{-x}\sin(y),\, e^{-x}\cos(y)\rangle$

Show $\mathbf{F}$ is conservative and source-free field

Find the potential function φ and the stream function ψ

Conservative Fields $\mathbf{F} = \langle f, g \rangle$	**Source-Free Fields $\mathbf{F} = \langle f, g \rangle$**
curl $= \dfrac{\partial g}{\partial x} - \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$	divergence $= \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \dfrac{\partial g}{\partial y} = 0$
Potential function φ with $\mathbf{F} = \nabla \varphi$ or $f = \dfrac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x}, \quad g = \dfrac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y}$	Stream function ψ with $f = \dfrac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, \quad g = -\dfrac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$
Circulation $= \oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = 0$ on all closed curves C.	Flux $= \oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n}\, ds = 0$ on all closed curves C.
Evaluation of the line integral $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \varphi(B) - \varphi(A)$	Evaluation of the line integral $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n}\, ds = \psi(B) - \psi(A)$

Circulation/work integrals: $\displaystyle\int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot\mathbf{T}\,ds = \int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C f\,dx + g\,dy$		
	C **closed**	C **not closed**
F conservative ($\mathbf{F} = \nabla\varphi$)	$\displaystyle\oint_C \mathbf{F}\cdot d\mathbf{r} = 0$	$\displaystyle\int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot d\mathbf{r} = \varphi(B) - \varphi(A)$
F not conservative	Green's Theorem $\displaystyle\oint_C \mathbf{F}\cdot d\mathbf{r} = \iint_R (g_x - f_y)\,dA$	Direct evaluation $\displaystyle\int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_a^b (fx' + gy')\,dt$

Flux integrals: $\displaystyle\int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot\mathbf{n}\,ds = \int_C f\,dy - g\,dx$		
	C **closed**	C **not closed**
F source free ($f = \psi_y, g = -\psi_x$)	$\displaystyle\oint_C \mathbf{F}\cdot\mathbf{n}\,ds = 0$	$\displaystyle\int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot\mathbf{n}\,ds = \psi(B) - \psi(A)$
F not source free	Green's Theorem $\displaystyle\oint_C \mathbf{F}\cdot\mathbf{n}\,ds = \iint_R (f_x + g_y)\,dA$	Direct evaluation $\displaystyle\int_C \mathbf{F}\cdot\mathbf{n}\,ds = \int_a^b (fy' - gx')\,dt$

Example. Suppose C is a circle centered at the origin, oriented counterclockwise, that encloses disk R in the plane. For $\mathbf{F} = \left\langle 4x^3y, xy^2 + x^4 \right\rangle$

a) Calculate the two-dimensional curl of $\mathbf{F}$

b) Calculate the two-dimensional divergence of $\mathbf{F}$

c) Is $\mathbf{F}$ irrotational on R?

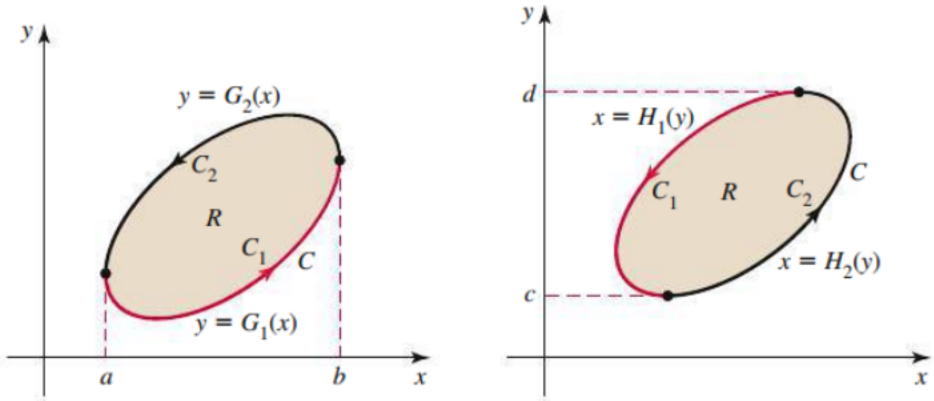
d) Is $\mathbf{F}$ source free on R?

Proof. Consider the regions R enclosed by a simple closed smooth curve C oriented in a counterclockwise direction, given by

$$R = \{(x, y) : a \le x \le b, G_1(x) \le y \le G_2(x)\}$$

or

$$R = \{(x, y) : H_1(y) \le x \le H_2(y), c \le y \le d\}.$$



To prove the circulation form of Green's Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\iint_R \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\, dA \\
&= \int_a^b \int_{G_1(x)}^{G_2(x)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\, dy\, dx \\
&= \int_a^b \Big(\underbrace{f(x, G_2(x))}_{\text{on } C_2} - \underbrace{f(x, G_1(x))}_{\text{on } C_1} \Big)\, dx \\
&= \int_{-C_2} f\, dx - \int_{C_1} f\, dx \\
&= -\int_{C_2} f\, dx - \int_{C_1} f\, dx \\
&= -\oint_C f\, dx
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\iint_R \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}\, dA \\
&= \int_c^d \int_{H_1(y)}^{H_2(y)} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}\, dx\, dy \\
&= \int_c^d \Big(\underbrace{g(H_2(y), y)}_{C_2} - \underbrace{f(H_1(y), y)}_{-C_1} \Big)\, dy \\
&= \int_{C_2} g\, dy - \int_{-C_1} g\, dy \\
&= \int_{C_2} g\, dy + \int_{C_1} g\, dy \\
&= \oint_C g\, dy
\end{aligned}$$

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