

Section 16.2 - Line Integrals in Space & Vector Fields

Vector Calc

C a curve in space: $x = x(t)$, $y = y(t)$, $z = z(t)$, $a \leq t \leq b$

Line integral of f on C wrt arc length: $\int_C f(x,y,z) ds = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{dt}\right)^2} dt$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle = \int_a^b f(\vec{r}(t)) |\vec{r}'(t)| dt$$

When $f(x,y,z) = 1$ we get the length of $C = \int_C ds = \int_a^b |\vec{r}'(t)| dt = L$.

Also have line integrals of f on C wrt to x, y, z :

$$\int_C f(x,y,z) dx \quad \int_C f(x,y,z) dy \quad \int_C f(x,y,z) dz$$

Notation for line integrals in the plane: $\int_C P(x,y,z) dx + Q(x,y,z) dy + R(x,y,z) dz$.

Example 6 Evaluate $\int_C y dx + z dy + x dz$, where C consists of the line segment C_1 from $(2,0,0)$ to $(3,4,5)$ followed by C_2 from $(3,4,5)$ to $(3,4,0)$.

Parametrization of C_1 : $\vec{r}_1(t) = \langle 2, 0, 0 \rangle + t \langle 1, 4, 5 \rangle$

$$x = t+2, \quad y = 4t, \quad z = 5t \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$dx = dt, \quad dy = 4dt, \quad dz = 5dt$$

Parametrization of C_2 : $\vec{r}_2(t) = \langle 3, 4, 5 \rangle + t \langle 0, 0, -5 \rangle$

$$x = 3, \quad y = 4, \quad z = -5t + 5 \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$dx = 0, \quad dy = 0, \quad dz = -5dt$$

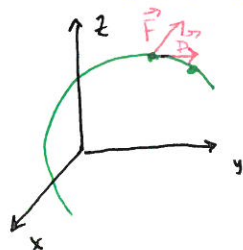
$$\begin{aligned} \int_C y dx + z dy + x dz &= \int_{C_1} y dx + z dy + x dz + \int_{C_2} x dx + z dy + x dz \\ &= \int_0^1 (4t) dt + 5t(4dt) + (t+2)5dt + 3(-5dt) \\ &= \int_0^1 29t - 5 dt = \frac{29}{2} - 5 = \boxed{\frac{19}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Line Integrals of Vector Fields

Work done by force $f(x)$ from (a,b) was $\int_a^b f(x) dx$

Now suppose $\vec{F} = P\vec{i} + Q\vec{j} + R\vec{k}$ is a continuous force field on \mathbb{R}^3

We wish to compute work to move a particle along a curve C .



$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{D} = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T}(t) \cdot \Delta s \quad \text{where } \vec{T}(t) \text{ is the unit tangent vector}$$

$$W = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds \quad \text{work} = \int_a^b \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{|\vec{r}'(t)|} |\vec{r}'(t)| dt = \int_a^b \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$$

Def. \vec{F} continuous on smooth C : $\vec{r}(t)$ then $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_a^b \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$ 1

Example 7 Find the work done by the force field $\vec{F}(x,y) = x^2 \vec{i} - xy \vec{j}$ in moving a particle along $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t \rangle$, $0 \leq t \leq \pi/2$.

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) = \langle \cos^2 t, -\cos t \sin t \rangle \quad \vec{r}'(t) = \langle -\sin t, \cos t \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_0^{\pi/2} \langle \cos^2 t, -\cos t \sin t \rangle \cdot \langle -\sin t, \cos t \rangle dt \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} -2 \cos^2 t \sin t dt \\ &= +2 \frac{\cos^3 t}{3} \Big|_0^{\pi/2} = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \end{aligned}$$

★ Note: $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$ and $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$

Orientation change and $\int_{-C} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = -\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$

$$\vec{F} = P\vec{i} + Q\vec{j} + R\vec{k}$$

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_a^b \langle P, Q, R \rangle \cdot \overbrace{\left\langle \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}, \frac{dz}{dt} \right\rangle}^{\vec{r}'(t)} dt$$

$$= \int_a^b \left(P \frac{dx}{dt} + Q \frac{dy}{dt} + R \frac{dz}{dt} \right) dt$$

$$= \boxed{\int_C P dx + Q dy + R dz}$$