

Section 16.3 - Fundamental Theorem for Line Integrals

Vector Calc

FTC: $\int_a^b F'(x) = F(b) - F(a)$ where F' continuous on $[a, b]$
 $F(x) = \int_a^x F'(x) dx$ with $\frac{dF}{dx} = F'(x)$.

Can think of ∇f as a kind of derivative

(FTCI) **Theorem 2** C smooth curve given by $\vec{r}(t)$, $a \leq t \leq b$
 f differentiable, ∇f continuous on C then $\int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = f(\vec{r}(b)) - f(\vec{r}(a))$

Proof: $\int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_a^b \nabla f(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$
 $= \int_a^b \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{dz}{dt} \right) dt$
 $= \int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} (f(\vec{r}(t))) dt = f(\vec{r}(b)) - f(\vec{r}(a))$

* Theorem 2 also holds for piecewise smooth curves

Definition - A vector field \vec{F} is called a conservative vector field if it is the gradient field of some function f . If f exists such that $\nabla f = \vec{F}$ then we say f is a potential function for \vec{F} .

* recall that in general $\int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} \neq \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ even if C_1 and C_2 have the same initial and terminal points.

However, by theorem 2 $\int_{C_1} \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_2} \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r}$ when ∇f is continuous

Thus the line integral of a conservative vector field only depends on the initial and terminal points or independent of path.

Definition - \vec{F} a continuous vector field with domain D ,
 $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is independent of path if $\int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ for any two paths C_1, C_2 in D having the same initial and terminal points.

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Vector Calc

Definition - a curve C is called closed if its terminal point coincides with its initial point, $\vec{r}(b) = \vec{r}(a)$.



★ If $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is independent of path in D and C is a closed curve in D then $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$.

Theorem 3 $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is independent of path in D iff $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$ for every closed path C in D .

\Rightarrow Only vector fields that are independent of path are conservative.

Definition - D is open if for all points P in D there is a disk with center P that lies completely in D . D is connected if for every two points in D can be joined by a path that lies in D .

General FTC II

Theorem 4 \vec{F} continuous on open connected region D

If $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is independent of path in D , then \vec{F} is a conservative vector field on D . That is there exists a function f such that $\nabla f = \vec{F}$.

Proof: Assume $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ is independent of path in D .

Show: there is f such that $\nabla f = \vec{F}$.

Let $f(x,y) = \int_{(a,b)}^{(x,y)} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ with (a,b) in D .

Since D is open there is an open disk around (x,y) . Choose point (x_1, y_1) and (x, y_1) in the disk.

$$f(x,y) = \int_{(a,b)}^{(x_1,y)} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \int_{(x_1,y)}^{(x,y)} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x,y) = 0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$\vec{F} = \langle P, Q \rangle \text{ then } \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x,y) = P(x,y) \text{ since } \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_2} P dx + Q dy$$

$$\text{Similarly } f(x,y) = \int_{(a,b)}^{(x,y_1)} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \int_{(x,y_1)}^{(x,y)} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y} f(x,y) = 0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int_{C_4} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = Q(x,y)$$

$$\text{Thus } \vec{F} = \langle P, Q \rangle = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right\rangle \blacksquare$$

