

Recall: • A vector field  $\vec{F}(x,y,z)$

is called conservative if there is a function  $f(x,y,z)$  such that

$$\vec{F}(x,y,z) = \nabla f(x,y,z)$$

• If  $C$  is a curve parametrized by  $\vec{r}(t)$ ,  $t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$ , and  $\vec{F}(x,y,z)$  is a vector field, then

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$$

Recall that a curve w/ a parametrization has an orientation.

$$\vec{r}(t), t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$$



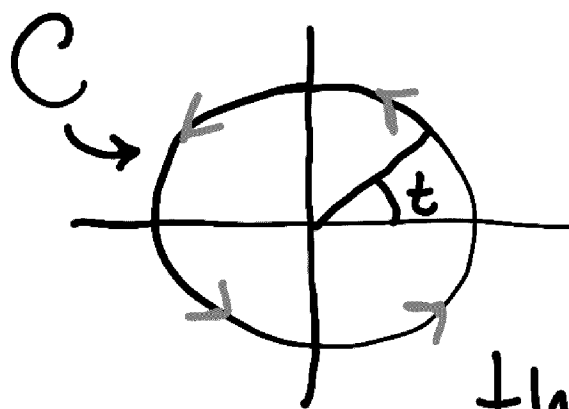
We can reverse  $t$ , to get the same curve, but with opposite ori.

$$\vec{r}(-t), t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$$



The curve  $-C$  is  $C$  with the opposite orientation.

Ex:  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t \rangle, 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$

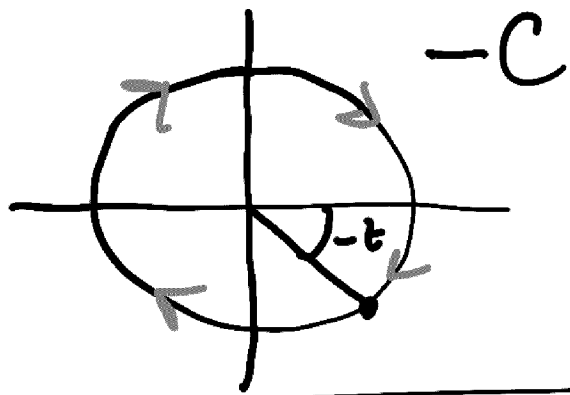


orientation is counterclockwise (ccw)

Since  $t$  measures the angle, and as

$t$  increases, the rotation goes CCW.

If we change the parametrization to  $\vec{s}(t) = \vec{r}(-t) = \langle \cos(-t), \sin(-t) \rangle$  we get the same curve but with the opposite orientation



Ex:  $\vec{F}(x,y) = \langle -y, x \rangle$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t \rangle, \quad 0 \leq t \leq \pi.$$

Last time:  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \pi.$

Now let's compute  $\int_{-C} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}.$

The curve  $-C$  is parametrized by

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{s}(t) &= \vec{r}(-t) = \langle \cos(-t), \sin(-t) \rangle \\ &= \langle \cos t, -\sin t \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

$0 \leq t \leq \pi$  becomes  $0 \leq -t \leq \pi$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 \geq t \geq -\pi.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_C \vec{F}(\vec{S}(t)) \cdot \vec{S}'(t) dt \\
&= \int_0^\pi \vec{F}(\cos t, -\sin t) \cdot \langle -\sin t, -\cos t \rangle dt \\
&= \int_0^\pi \langle \sin t, \cos t \rangle \cdot \langle -\sin t, -\cos t \rangle dt \\
&= \int_{-\pi}^0 -\sin^2 t - \cos^2 t dt = \int_{-\pi}^0 -1 dt = -\pi.
\end{aligned}$$


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Properties of line integrals:

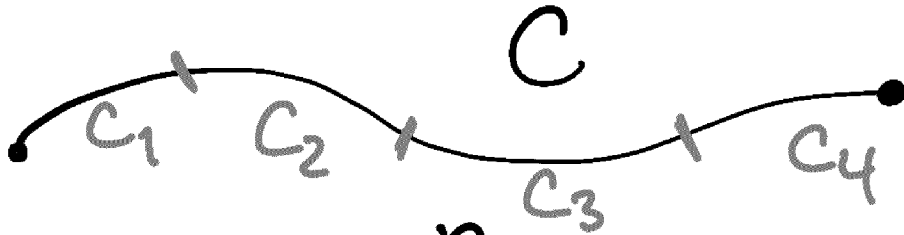
$$(1) \int_C (\vec{F} + \vec{G}) \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \int_C \vec{G} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$(2) \int_C k\vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = k \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

↑  
Scalar

$$(3) \int_{-C} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = - \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

(4) If  $C$  is the concatenation of the curves  $C_1, \dots, C_n$



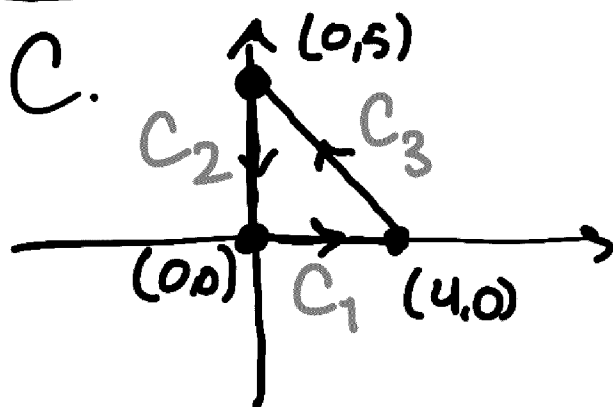
$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{C_i} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}.$$

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Ex: Calculate  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$  where

$\vec{F}(x,y) = \langle y^2, 2xy+1 \rangle$ , and  $C$  is the triangle in the plane with vertices  $(0,0)$ ,  $(4,0)$  and  $(0,5)$  oriented counterclockwise.

Sol: We first have to parametrize



$$\boxed{C_1} \quad \vec{F}_1(t) = \langle t, 0 \rangle \quad 0 \leq t \leq 4$$

$$\boxed{C_2} \quad \vec{F}_2(t) = \langle 0, -t \rangle \quad -5 \leq t \leq 0$$

$\boxed{C_3}$  Direction vector:

$$\langle 0, 5 \rangle - \langle 4, 0 \rangle = \langle -4, 5 \rangle$$

Start pt:  $(4, 0)$

$$\vec{r}_3(t) = \langle 4, 0 \rangle + t \langle -4, 5 \rangle, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$= \langle 4 - 4t, 5t \rangle, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

Integrals:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \vec{F}(\vec{r}_1(t)) = \vec{F}(\langle t, 0 \rangle) = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$\int_{C_1} \vec{F}(\vec{r}_1(t)) \cdot \vec{r}_1'(t) dt = \int_0^4 \langle 0, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 0 \rangle dt$$

$$= 0$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \vec{F}(\vec{r}_2(t)) = \vec{F}(\langle 0, -t \rangle) = \langle t^2, 1 \rangle$$

$$\int_{C_2} \vec{F}(\vec{r}_2(t)) \cdot \vec{r}_2'(t) dt = \int_{-5}^0 \langle t^2, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle 0, -1 \rangle dt$$

$$= \int_{-5}^0 -1 dt = \int_0^{-5} dt = -5$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \vec{F}(\vec{r}_3(t)) = \vec{F}(\langle 4-4t, 5t \rangle)$$

$$= \langle 25t^2, 2(5t)(4-4t)+1 \rangle = \langle 25t^2, 40t-40t^2+1 \rangle$$

$$\int_{C_3} \vec{F}(\vec{r}_3(t)) \cdot \vec{r}_3'(t) dt = \int_0^1 \langle 25t^2, 40t-40t^2+1 \rangle \cdot \langle -4, 5 \rangle dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 -100t^2 + 5(40t-40t^2+1) dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 -100t^2 + 200t - 200t^2 + 5 dt$$

$$= \left[ -100t^3 + 100t^2 + 5t \right]_0^1 = 5$$

$$\text{So: } \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$+ \int_{C_3} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0 - 5 + 5 = 0.$$

$$\text{EX: Let } \vec{F}(x,y,z) = \langle 2x \ln(y), \frac{x^2}{y} + z^2, 2yz \rangle$$

and  $C$  is a curve with parametrization  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, t, t \rangle$ ,  $1 \leq t \leq e$ .

Then let's compute

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_1^e \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt.$$

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) = \vec{F}(t^2, t, t)$$

$$= \langle 2t^2 \ln(t), t^3 + t^2, 2t^2 \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle 2t, 1, 1 \rangle. \text{ Then}$$

$$\int_1^e \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$$
$$= \int_1^e \langle 2t^2 \ln(t), t^3 + t^2, 2t^2 \rangle \cdot \langle 2t, 1, 1 \rangle dt$$

$$= \int_1^e 4t^3 \ln(t) + t^3 + t^2 + 2t^2 dt$$

$$= \left[ \frac{t^4}{4} + t^3 \right]_1^e + \int_1^e 4t^3 \ln(t) dt$$

$$= \left[ \frac{e^4 - 1}{4} + e^3 - 1 \right] + \left[ t^4 \ln(t) \right]_1^e$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \int_1^e t^4 \cdot \frac{1}{t} dt = \left( \frac{e^4 - 1}{4} + e^3 - 1 \right) \\
& + \left( e^4 \overbrace{\ln(e)}^= \right) - \left[ \frac{t^4}{4} \right]_1^e \\
& = \left( \frac{e^4 - 1}{4} + e^3 - 1 \right) + e^4 - \left( \frac{e^4 - 1}{4} \right) \\
& = e^4 + e^3 - 1.
\end{aligned}$$


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## §6.3 Conservative Vector Fields

Recall that a vector field  $\vec{F}$  is Conservative if  $\vec{F} = \nabla f$  for some function  $f$  called a potential.

Also recall from Calc II:

$$\int_a^b \frac{df}{dx} dx = f(b) - f(a)$$

(fundamental theorem of Calculus)

## Thm (Fundamental theorem of line integrals)

Let  $C$  be a curve with parametrization  $\vec{r}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ , and let  $f$  be a differentiable function. Then

$$\int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = f(\vec{r}(b)) - f(\vec{r}(a))$$

Ex: Let's consider the previous example with

$$\vec{F}(x, y, z) = (2x \ln(y), \frac{x^2}{y} + z^2, 2yz).$$

Is this vector field conservative?

$$\vec{F} = \nabla f \iff \begin{cases} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x \ln(y) & (1) \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{x^2}{y} + z^2 & (2) \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = 2yz & (3) \end{cases}$$

Integrate 1<sup>st</sup> eq:  $f(x,y,z) = x^2 \ln(y) + g(y,z)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{x^2}{y} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \stackrel{(2)}{=} \frac{x^2}{y} + z^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = z^2 \Rightarrow g(y,z) = yz^2 + h(z).$$

So  $f(x,y,z) = x^2 \ln(y) + yz^2 + h(z)$ .

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = 2yz + h'(z) \stackrel{(3)}{=} 2yz$$

$$\Leftrightarrow h'(z) = 0 \Rightarrow h(z) = C$$

So  $f(x,y,z) = x^2 \ln(y) + yz^2 + C$

is a potential:

$$\vec{F} = \nabla f.$$

Therefore

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r}$$

$$= f(\vec{r}(e)) - f(\vec{r}(a))$$

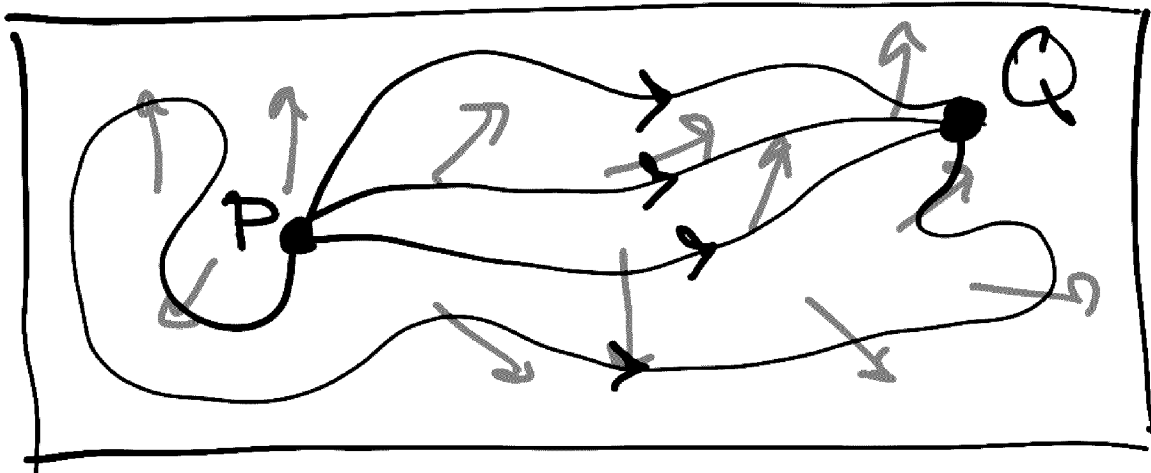
$$= f(e^2, e, e) - f(1, 1, 1)$$

$$= (e^4 \ln(e) + e^3 + C) - (\overset{=0}{1} \ln(1) + 1 + C)$$

$$= e^4 + e^3 - 1.$$


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If  $\vec{F}$  is conservative, it's only the endpoints of the path that matters for  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$ .



Only the value of the potential  $f$  of  $\vec{F}$  at endpoints P and Q matter for  $\int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r}$

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