

December 1st, 2011

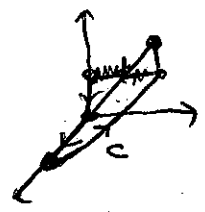
Exercise 1. Let c be a simple, closed smooth curve and let Σ_1 and Σ_2 be two smooth surfaces (with positive orientation) with $\partial\Sigma_1 = \partial\Sigma_2 = c$. Additionally, let \vec{F} be a vector field on \mathbb{R}^3 whose components have continuous partial derivatives. Explain why or why not $\int_{\Sigma_1} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = \int_{\Sigma_2} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S}$.

We have that Σ_1, Σ_2 and \vec{F} satisfy Stokes' theorem. Hence

$$\iint_{\Sigma_1} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = \oint_c \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint_{\Sigma_2} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S}$$

Exercise 2. Suppose a particle moves along line segments from the origin to the points $(1,0,0)$, $(1,2,1)$, $(0,2,1)$, and back to the origin under the influence of the force field $\vec{F} = \langle z^2, 2xy, 4y^2 \rangle$. Find the work done. (HINT: Use Stokes' theorem)

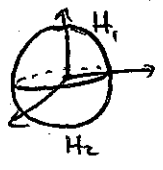
Let S be the planar region enclosed by the path of the particle; i.e., S is the portion of the plane $z = \frac{1}{2}y$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 2$ with upward orientation. Also, $\text{curl}(\vec{F}) = \langle 8y, 2z, 2y \rangle$. Thus,



$$\oint_c \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint_S (\text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot \hat{n}) \, dS = \int_0^1 \int_0^2 (2y - \frac{1}{2}y) \, dy \, dx = 3.$$

Exercise 3. Let S_a^2 denote the sphere of radius a and suppose the vector field \vec{F} satisfies the hypotheses of Stokes' theorem. Show that $\int_{S_a^2} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = 0$. (HINT: Decompose S_a^2 as the union of the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere. Then apply Stokes' theorem on each piece (cough careful about orientations cough)).

The problem is clearly translational invariant. So, wlog, assume S_a^2 centered at origin. Let H_1 and H_2 be the northern and southern hemisphere, respectively.



Then $\iint_{S_a^2} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = \iint_{H_1} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} + \iint_{H_2} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = \oint_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \oint_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$

where $C_i = \partial H_i$. But C_1 is $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ oriented in the counter clockwise direction while C_2 is $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ in the clockwise direction. Thus,

$$\iint_{S_a^2} \text{curl}(\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{S} = \oint_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \oint_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \oint_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} - \oint_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0.$$