

15.2 Vector Fields

Find the gradient fields of the functions in Exercises 1–4.

1. $f(x, y, z) = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2}$

2. $f(x, y, z) = \ln \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

Sol'n: Gradient field given by $\vec{\nabla} f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{k}$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\ln(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2})) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2} \cdot 2x = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

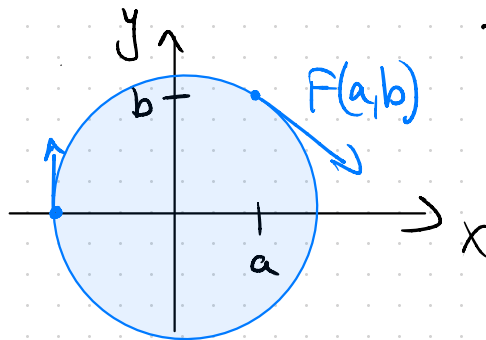
Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\text{So } \vec{\nabla} f = \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \frac{z}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \right)$$

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6. Give a formula $\mathbf{F} = M(x, y)\mathbf{i} + N(x, y)\mathbf{j}$ for the vector field in the plane that has the properties that $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{0}$ at $(0, 0)$ and that at any other point (a, b) , $\mathbf{F}$ is tangent to the circle $x^2 + y^2 = a^2 + b^2$ and points in the clockwise direction with magnitude $|\mathbf{F}| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$.

Sol'n:

$$\vec{F}(x, y) = y\hat{i} - x\hat{j}$$

Then at (a, b) , $\vec{F}(a, b) = b\hat{i} - a\hat{j}$
 and $|\vec{F}(a, b)| = \sqrt{b^2 + (-a)^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

In polar coordinates, $\vec{F}(r, \theta) = r\sin\theta\hat{i} - r\cos\theta\hat{j}$.

Then we can see that $\vec{F}(r, \theta) \perp r\cos\theta\hat{i} + r\sin\theta\hat{j}$ and so is tangent to the circle.

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Line Integrals of Vector Fields

In Exercises 7–12, find the line integrals of $\mathbf{F}$ from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(1, 1, 1)$ over each of the following paths in the accompanying figure.

a. The straight-line path C_1 : $\mathbf{r}(t) = t\mathbf{i} + t\mathbf{j} + t\mathbf{k}$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$

b. The curved path C_2 : $\mathbf{r}(t) = t\mathbf{i} + t^2\mathbf{j} + t^4\mathbf{k}$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$

c. The path $C_3 \cup C_4$ consisting of the line segment from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(1, 1, 0)$ followed by the segment from $(1, 1, 0)$ to $(1, 1, 1)$

7. $\mathbf{F} = 3y\mathbf{i} + 2x\mathbf{j} + 4z\mathbf{k}$

8. $\mathbf{F} = [1/(x^2 + 1)]\mathbf{j}$

9. $\mathbf{F} = \sqrt{z}\mathbf{i} - 2x\mathbf{j} + \sqrt{y}\mathbf{k}$

10. $\mathbf{F} = xyz\mathbf{i} + yz\mathbf{j} + xz\mathbf{k}$

Sol'n: $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_a^b \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt.$

a) $\vec{r}(t) = (t, t, t)$. So $\vec{r}'(t) = (1, 1, 1)$.

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

So $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_0^1 (t^2, t^2, t^2) \cdot (1, 1, 1) dt = \int_0^1 3t^2 dt = t^3 \Big|_0^1 = \boxed{1}$

$$b) \vec{r}(t) = (t, t^2, t^4). \text{ So } \vec{r}'(t) = (1, 2t, 4t^3)$$

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) = (t \cdot t^2, t^2 \cdot t^4, t \cdot t^4) = (t^3, t^6, t^5).$$

$$\text{So } \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} \, ds = \int_0^1 (t^3, t^6, t^5) \cdot (1, 2t, 4t^3) \, dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 (t^3 + 2t^7 + 4t^8) \, dt = \left(\frac{1}{4}t^4 + \frac{1}{4}t^8 + \frac{4}{9}t^9 \right) \Big|_0^1$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{9} = \boxed{\frac{17}{18}}$$

$$c) C_3: \vec{r}_3(t) = (0, 0, 0) + t((1, 1, 0) - (0, 0, 0)) = (t, t, 0), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$\vec{r}_3'(t) = (1, 1, 0).$$

$$C_4: \vec{r}_4(t) = (1, 1, 0) + t((1, 1, 1) - (1, 1, 0)) = (1, 1, 0) + t(0, 0, 1) = (1, 1, t),$$

$$0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

$$\vec{r}_4'(t) = (0, 0, 1).$$

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}_3(t)) = (t \cdot t, t \cdot 0, t \cdot 0) = (t^2, 0, 0).$$

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}_4(t)) = (1 \cdot 1, 1 \cdot t, 1 \cdot t) = (1, t, t).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} &= \int_0^1 \vec{F}(\vec{r}_3(t)) \cdot \vec{r}_3'(t) dt + \int_0^1 \vec{F}(\vec{r}_4(t)) \cdot \vec{r}_4'(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^1 (t^2, 0, 0) \cdot (1, 1, 0) dt + \int_0^1 (1, t, t) \cdot (0, 0, 1) dt \\ &= \int_0^1 t^2 dt + \int_0^1 t dt = \frac{1}{3} t^3 \Big|_0^1 + \frac{1}{2} t^2 \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \boxed{\frac{5}{6}} \end{aligned}$$

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18. Along the curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = (\cos t)\mathbf{i} + (\sin t)\mathbf{j} - (\cos t)\mathbf{k}$, $0 \leq t \leq \pi$, evaluate each of the following integrals.

a. $\int_C xz \, dx$

b. $\int_C xz \, dy$

c. $\int_C xyz \, dz$

Sol'n:

a) $\int_C xz \, dz = \int_0^\pi \cos t \cdot (-\cos t) d(\cos t) = \int_0^\pi \cos^2 t \sin t \, dt$

$$= -\frac{1}{3} \cos^3 t \Big|_0^\pi = \frac{1}{3} - \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}}$$

b) $\int_C xz \, dy = \int_0^\pi \cos t \cdot (-\cos t) d(\sin t) = \int_0^\pi -\cos^3 t \, dt$

$$= \frac{1}{12} (-9 \sin t - \sin(3t)) \Big|_0^\pi = \boxed{0}$$

c) $\int_C xyz \, dz = \int_0^\pi (\cos t)(\sin t)(-\cos t) d(-\cos t)$

$$= \int_0^{\pi} -\cos^2 t \sin^2 t \, dt = \frac{1}{32} (\sin(4t) - 4t) \Big|_0^{\pi} = \boxed{-\frac{\pi}{8}}$$

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Work

In Exercises 19–22, find the work done by $\mathbf{F}$ over the curve in the direction of increasing t .

19. $\mathbf{F} = xy\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} - yz\mathbf{k}$

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = t\mathbf{i} + t^2\mathbf{j} + t\mathbf{k}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

20. $\mathbf{F} = 2y\mathbf{i} + 3x\mathbf{j} + (x + y)\mathbf{k}$

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (\cos t)\mathbf{i} + (\sin t)\mathbf{j} + (t/6)\mathbf{k}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$

Sol'n: $W = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_0^{2\pi} \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = (-\sin t, \cos t, \frac{1}{6}).$$

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) = (2\sin t, 3\cos t, \cos t + \sin t).$$

Then $W = \int_0^{2\pi} (2\sin t, 3\cos t, \cos t + \sin t) \cdot (-\sin t, \cos t, \frac{1}{6}) dt$
 $= \int_0^{2\pi} (-2\sin^2 t + 3\cos^2 t + \frac{1}{6}\cos t + \frac{1}{6}\sin t) dt$

$$= \frac{1}{6} (3t + \sin t + (15 \sin t - 1) \cos t) \Big|_0^{2\pi} = \boxed{\pi}$$

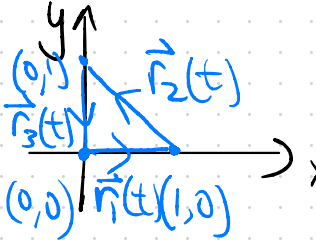
Line Integrals in the Plane

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23. Evaluate $\int_C xy \, dx + (x + y) \, dy$ along the curve $y = x^2$ from $(-1, 1)$ to $(2, 4)$.

24. Evaluate $\int_C (x - y) \, dx + (x + y) \, dy$ counterclockwise around the triangle with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(1, 0)$, and $(0, 1)$.

Sol'n:



$C_1: \vec{r}_1(t) = (t, 0), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$
 $C_2: \vec{r}_2(t) = (1, 0) + t((0, 1) - (1, 0))$
 $\quad = (1, 0) + t(-1, 1) = (1-t, t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$
 $C_3: \vec{r}_3(t) = (0, 1) + t((0, 0) - (0, 1)) = (0, 1) + t(0, -1) = (0, 1-t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$

$\int_{C_1} (x-y) \, dx + (x+y) \, dy = \int_0^1 (t-0) \, dt + (t+0) \, d(0) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{2}$

$\int_{C_2} (x-y) \, dx + (x+y) \, dy = \int_0^1 (1-t-t) \, dt + (1-t+t) \, dt$

$$= \int_0^1 (1-2t) dt + \int_0^1 dt = (t - t^2 + t) \Big|_0^1 = 1$$

$$\int_{C_3} (x-y) dx + (x+y) dy = \int_0^1 (0-1+t) d(\overset{0}{\overrightarrow{0}}) + (0+1-t) d(1-t)$$

$$= \int_0^1 (t-1) dt = \left(\frac{1}{2} t^2 - t \right) \Big|_0^1 = -\frac{1}{2}.$$

$$\text{So } \int_C (x-y) dx + (x+y) dy = \boxed{1}$$

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30. Flux across a circle Find the flux of the fields

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = 2x\mathbf{i} - 3y\mathbf{j} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{F}_2 = 2x\mathbf{i} + (x - y)\mathbf{j}$$

across the circle

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (a \cos t)\mathbf{i} + (a \sin t)\mathbf{j}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi.$$

Sol'n: $\mathbf{F}_1 = 2x\mathbf{i} - 3y\mathbf{j} \Rightarrow M = 2x, N = -3y.$

$$\text{Flux of } \mathbf{F}_1 = \oint_C M dy - N dx = \int_0^{2\pi} 2(a \cos t) d(a \sin t) + 3(a \sin t) d(a \cos t)$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} 2a^2 \cos^2 t dt + \int_0^{2\pi} -3a^2 \sin^2 t dt$$

$$= 2\pi a^2 - 3\pi a^2 = \boxed{-\pi a^2}$$

$$F_2 = 2x\hat{i} + (x-y)\hat{j} \Rightarrow M=2x, N=x-y.$$

$$\text{Flux of } F_2 = \oint_C Mdy - Ndx = \int_0^{2\pi} 2(a\cos t)d(asint) - (a\cos t - asint)d(a\cos t)$$

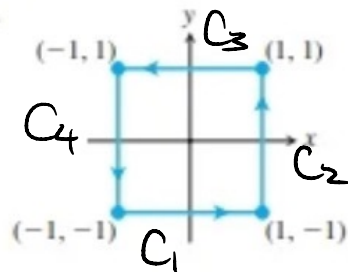
$$= \int_0^{2\pi} 2a^2 \cos^2 t dt + \int_0^{2\pi} (a^2 \cos t \sin t - a^2 \sin^2 t) dt$$

$$= 2\pi a^2 - \pi a^2 = \boxed{\pi a^2}$$

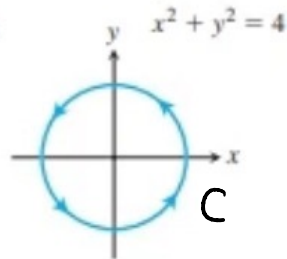
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40. Find the circulation of the field $\mathbf{F} = y\mathbf{i} + (x + 2y)\mathbf{j}$ around each of the following closed paths.

a.



b.



c. Use any closed path different from parts (a) and (b).

$$a) C_1: \mathbf{r}_1(t) = (-1, -1) + t((1, -1) - (-1, -1)) = (2t - 1, -1), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$\mathbf{r}'_1(t) = (2, 0).$$

$$C_2: \mathbf{r}_2(t) = (1, -1) + t((1, 1) - (1, -1)) = (1, 2t - 1), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

$$r_2'(t) = (0, 2).$$

$$C_3: r_3(t) = (1, 1) + t((-1, 1) - (1, 1)) = (1 - 2t, 1), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$r_3'(t) = (-2, 0).$$

$$C_4: r_4(t) = (-1, 1) + t((-1, -1) - (-1, 1)) = (-1, 1 - 2t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

$$r_4'(t) = (0, -2).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then circulation} &= \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds + \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds + \int_{C_3} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds \\ &\quad + \int_{C_4} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds. \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_0^1 (-1, 2t - 1 - 2) \cdot (2, 0) dt = \int_0^1 -2 dt = -2t \Big|_0^1 = -2.$$

$$\int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_0^1 (2t-1, 1+4t-2) \cdot (0, 2) dt = \int_0^1 (-2+8t) dt$$

$$= (2t+4t^2) \Big|_0^1 = -2+4 = 2.$$

$$\int_{C_3} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_0^1 (1, 1-2t+2) \cdot (-2, 0) dt = \int_0^1 -2 dt = -2.$$

$$\int_{C_4} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = \int_0^1 (1-2t, -1+2-4t) \cdot (0, -2) dt = \int_0^1 (-2+8t) dt = 2.$$

$$\text{So } \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds = -2+2-2+2 = 0.$$

b) $C: r(t) = (2\cos t, 2\sin t)$
 $r'(t) = (-2\sin t, 2\cos t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{So } \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds &= \int_0^{2\pi} (2\sin t, 2\cos t + 4\sin t) \cdot (-2\sin t, 2\cos t) dt \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} (-4\sin^2 t + 4\cos^2 t + 8\cos t \sin t) dt \\
 &= (2\sin(2t) - 2\cos(2t)) \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

c) let C be the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$. Then $r(t) = (\cos t, \sin t)$, $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$.
 $r'(t) = (-\sin t, \cos t)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \hat{T} ds &= \int_0^{2\pi} (\sin t, \cos t + 2\sin t) \cdot (-\sin t, \cos t) dt \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} (-\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t + 2\sin t \cos t) dt = \frac{1}{2} (\sin(2t) - \cos(2t)) \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

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52. Two "central" fields Find a field $\mathbf{F} = M(x, y)\mathbf{i} + N(x, y)\mathbf{j}$ in the xy -plane with the property that at each point $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$, $\mathbf{F}$ points toward the origin and $|\mathbf{F}|$ is (a) the distance from (x, y) to the origin, (b) inversely proportional to the distance from (x, y) to the origin. (The field is undefined at $(0, 0)$.)

Sol'n: a) At point (x, y) , distance to origin is given by $\sqrt{(x-0)^2 + (y-0)^2} = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$.

Take $\vec{F}(x, y) = -x\hat{i} - y\hat{j}$. Then $\vec{F}$ points toward the origin with length $|\vec{F}|$ the distance from (x, y) to the origin. ✓

b) Take $\vec{F}(x, y) = \frac{-x}{x^2 + y^2}\hat{i} - \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}\hat{j}$ where

Then $\vec{F}$ points toward the origin and

$$|\vec{F}(x, y)| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{-x}{x^2 + y^2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + y^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

as required ✓.

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54. **Work done by a radial force with constant magnitude** A particle moves along the smooth curve $y = f(x)$ from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$. The force moving the particle has constant magnitude k and always points away from the origin. Show that the work done by the force is

$$\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{T} ds = k \left[(b^2 + (f(b))^2)^{1/2} - (a^2 + (f(a))^2)^{1/2} \right].$$

Sol'n: $\mathbf{r}(x) = (x, f(x))$. $a \leq x \leq b$.

Then $\mathbf{r}'(x) = (1, f'(x))$.

$\mathbf{F}$ points away from origin, so $\vec{\mathbf{F}}(x, y) = cx\hat{i} + cy\hat{j}$ for some constant c .

s.t. $|\vec{\mathbf{F}}| = \sqrt{c^2x^2 + c^2y^2} = c\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = k$.

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\mathbf{F}}(x, y) = \frac{kx}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \hat{i} + \frac{ky}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \hat{j}.$$

$$\text{Then } \int_C \vec{\mathbf{F}} \cdot \mathbf{T} ds = \int_a^b \left(\frac{kx}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}}, \frac{kf(x)}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}} \right) \cdot (1, f'(x)) dx$$

$$= \int_a^b \frac{kx}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}} + \frac{kf(x)f'(x)}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}} dx = k \int_a^b \frac{x + f(x)f'(x)}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}} dx$$

Note that $\frac{d}{dx} (\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}) = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + (f(x))^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (2x + 2f(x)f'(x))$

$$= \frac{x + f(x)f'(x)}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}}$$

$$\text{So } k \int_a^b \frac{x + f(x)f'(x)}{\sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2}} dx = k \sqrt{x^2 + (f(x))^2} \Big|_a^b$$

$$= k \left((b^2 + (f(b))^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} - (a^2 + (f(a))^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \text{ as required } \checkmark$$