

## 1 INTEGRALS OVER CURVES

1. The *path integral* of a scalar valued function  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  along a  $C^1$  path parametrised  $\mathbf{asc}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$  is

$$\int_{\mathbf{c}} f \, ds = \int_a^b f(\mathbf{c}(t)) \|\mathbf{c}'(t)\| \, dt.$$

2. Setting  $f = 1$  in the above integral gives the *arc length* of the path.
3. The *line integral* of a continuous vector field  $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  along a  $C^1$  path parametrised  $\mathbf{asc}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$  is

$$\int_{\mathbf{c}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \int_a^b \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{c}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{c}'(t) \, dt.$$

4. A version of the fundamental theorem relating line integrals to gradients: If  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a  $C^1$  scalar field then

$$\int_{\mathbf{c}} \nabla f \cdot d\mathbf{s} = f(\mathbf{c}(b)) - f(\mathbf{c}(a)).$$

## 2 PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Compute the line integral of  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \left( \frac{1}{|x|+|y|}, \frac{1}{|x|+|y|} \right)$ , along the square with vertices at  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1)$ ,  $(-1, 0)$  and  $(0, -1)$  in an anti-clockwise direction.
2. Compute the line integral

$$\int_{\mathbf{c}} y \, dx + z \, dy + x \, dz,$$

where  $\mathbf{c}$  is the intersection of the two surfaces  $z = xy$  and  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  in an anti-clockwise direction when viewed from the  $+z$  axis.

3. Evaluate the path integral of  $f(x, y, z) = e^{\sqrt{z}}$  along the path  $\mathbf{c}(t) = (1, 2, t^2)$ , where  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ .
4. Suppose  $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a vector field that has the property that  $\int_{\mathbf{c}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = 0$  for every **closed** path  $\mathbf{c}$ . Then prove that if  $\mathbf{c}_1$  and  $\mathbf{c}_2$  are two different paths with the **same** starting and ending points, then

$$\int_{\mathbf{c}_1} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \int_{\mathbf{c}_2} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s}.$$