
MATH 010B - Spring 2018

Worked Problems - Section 7.2

1. Evaluate

$$\int_C \mathbf{F}(x, y, z) \, ds$$

where $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = (x, y, z)$, and C is parameterized by $\mathbf{x}(t) = (2 \cos(t), 2 \sin(t), 0)$, for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$.

Solution: Recall that the formula for the path integral of a vector field \mathbf{F} is given as

$$\int_C \mathbf{F} \, ds = \int_a^b \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{x}'(t) \, dt$$

So we must figure out the other pieces. They are computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)) &= (2 \cos(t), 2 \sin(t), 0) \\ \mathbf{x}'(t) &= (-2 \sin(t), 2 \cos(t), 0) \\ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{x}'(t) &= (2 \cos(t), 2 \sin(t), 0) \cdot (-2 \sin(t), 2 \cos(t), 0) \\ &= -4 \cos(t) \sin(t) + 4 \cos(t) \sin(t) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Now we just compute by putting everything together

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{F} \, ds &= \int_a^b \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{x}'(t) \, dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} 0 \, dt \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

□

2. Evaluate

$$\int_C 2xyz \, dx + x^2z \, dy + x^2y \, dz$$

where C connects $(1, 2, 4)$ to $(1, 4, 16)$.

Solution: Use a parameterization for a straight line between the points for $0 \leq t \leq 1$. To do this, follow a similar procedure as the straight line in Section 7.1, number 1. Thus we have

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = (1, 2t + 2, 12t + 4)$$

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = (0, 2, 12)$$

Note that given $\mathbf{x}(t) = (x, y, z)$, then the derivative is given as $\mathbf{x}'(t) = (dx, dy, dz)$. Now just substitute out

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C 2xyz \, dx + x^2z \, dy + x^2y \, dz &= \int_0^1 (0 + (1)(12t + 4)(2) + (1)(2t + 2)(12)) \, dt \\ &= \int_0^1 48t + 32 \, dt \\ &= 24t^2 + 32 \Big|_0^1 \\ &= 56 \end{aligned}$$

□

3. Evaluate

$$\int_C x^2 \, dx + xy \, dy + \, dz$$

where C is the parabola $z = x^2$ from $(-2, 0, 4)$ to $(2, 0, 4)$.

Solution: Note that the parabola $z = x^2$ is a parabola in the xz -plane, where the y component is always zero. If we let $x = t$ for $t \in [-2, 2]$, then $z = t^2$. Therefore, we get

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = (t, 0, t^2)$$

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = (1, 0, 2t)$$

Note that given $\mathbf{x}(t) = (x, y, z)$, then the derivative is given as $\mathbf{x}'(t) = (dx, dy, dz)$. Now just substitute out

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C x^2 \, dx + xy \, dy + \, dz &= \int_{-2}^2 ((t^2)(1) + (1)(0)(0) + 2t) \, dt \\ &= \int_{-2}^2 (t^2 + 2t) \, dt \\ &= \frac{1}{3}t^3 + t^2 \Big|_{-2}^2 \\ &= \frac{16}{3} \end{aligned}$$

□

4. Consider the force field $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = (x, y, z)$. Compute the work done in moving a particle along the parabola $y = x^2$, $z = 0$, from $x = -1$ to $x = 3$.

Solution: Note that the parabola $y = x^2$ is a parabola in the xy -plane, where the z component is always zero. If we let $x = t$ for $t \in [-1, 3]$, then $y = t^2$. Therefore, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}(t) &= (t, t^2, 0) \\ \mathbf{x}'(t) &= (1, 2t, 0) \\ \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)) &= (t, t^2, 0)\end{aligned}$$

Now we just use the formula

$$\begin{aligned}W &= \int_C \mathbf{F} \, ds = \int_a^b \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{x}'(t) \, dt \\ &= \int_{-1}^3 (t, t^2, 0) \cdot (1, 2t, 0) \, dt \\ &= \int_{-1}^3 (t + 2t^3) \, dt \\ &= \left. \frac{1}{2}t^2 + \frac{1}{2}t^4 \right|_{-1}^3 \\ &= \frac{9}{2} + \frac{81}{2} - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{88}{2} \\ &= 44\end{aligned}$$

□

5. Given

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = (2xyze^{x^2}, ze^{x^2}, ye^{x^2})$$

and $f(0, 0, 0) = 1$, determine the value of $f(3, 3, 2)$.

Solution: Recall that the gradient of f is defined as

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) = (2xyze^{x^2}, ze^{x^2}, ye^{x^2})$$

so we then know that the following equation holds

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2xyze^{x^2}.$$

Now we can integrate both sides of the above equation to figure out what the general f is, recalling that the integration “constant” can be a function y and z . Therefore, we have that

$$f(x, y, z) = yze^{x^2} + g(y, z)$$

Now taking partial derivatives of the general f with respect to y and z , we get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} &= ze^{x^2} + g_y(y, z) \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} &= ye^{x^2} + g_z(y, z).\end{aligned}$$

If you match the terms above with the original gradient that was given in the problem, we must have that

$$\begin{aligned}g_y(y, z) &= 0 \\g_z(y, z) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

and by integrating, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}g(y, z) &= h(z) \\g(y, z) &= \tilde{h}(y)\end{aligned}$$

So the above condition states that g must be *strictly* a function of z **and** *strictly* a function of y . The only way this is possible is if $g(y, z) = C$, where C is a constant. So we have that

$$f(x, y, z) = yze^{x^2} + C$$

Now we use the initial condition that is given to show that

$$f(0, 0, 0) = 1 = 0 + C$$

so that we find $C = 1$. Therefore, our function is $f(x, y, z) = yze^{x^2} + 1$, and $f(x, y, z) = 6e^9 + 1$. \square