

## PROBLEM SET 2: Line Integrals and Green's Theorem

1. Calculate the following line integrals by finding a potential function for the vector field in each case

- (a)  $\int_{C_1} (2xy + y \sin(xy))dx + (x^2 + x \sin(xy))dy$ , where  $C_1$  is the line segment from  $(-1, 1)$  to  $(5, 6)$  followed by the line segment from  $(5, 6)$  to  $(-3, 4)$  followed by the short arc of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$  from  $(-3, 4)$  to  $(5, 0)$ .
- (b)  $\int_{C_2} (y^2z + 2xz + 3yz)dx + (2xyz + 2z + 3xz)dy + (xy^2 + x^2 + 2y + 3xy)dz$ , where  $C_2$  is the part of the helix  $(\cos 2t, \sin 2t, 4t)$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq \pi$  from  $(1, 0, 0)$  to  $(1, 0, 4\pi)$  followed by the line segment from  $(1, 0, 4\pi)$  to  $(0, -3, 0)$ .

2. Sketch (i.e., draw a few of the vectors) the constant vector field  $\vec{F}$  in the plane with  $\vec{F}(x, y) = (1, 2)$  for all points  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Draw the graph of the line segment from  $(-1, 3)$  to  $(4, -1)$  and the unit tangent vector  $\vec{T}$  to the line segment at a point on the line. Denote by  $\vec{N}$  the unit normal to the line at the same point obtained by rotating  $\vec{T}$  **clockwise**  $\pi/2$  radians. Notice that  $\vec{N}$  is on your right-hand side as you walk along the line segment in the direction of  $\vec{T}$ . Given an oriented plane curve  $\gamma$ , the unit normal  $\vec{N}$  to the curve will denote the normal that is on your right-hand side as you walk along the curve in the direction of the unit tangent vector  $\text{vec}T$ .

**Important Comment:** to rotate a vector  $(a, b)$  by  $\pi/2$  radians clockwise, replace it by the vector  $(b, -a)$ . Let this vector  $(b, -a)$  be denoted by  $(a, b)^\perp$ . Notice that if  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  are two vectors in the plane then

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u}^\perp \cdot \vec{v}^\perp.$$

- (a) Compute the flux of  $\vec{F}$  across the line segment from  $(-1, 3)$  to  $(4, -1)$ .  
The flux of  $\vec{F}$  across a plane curve  $C$  is  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{N} ds$ .
- (b) Compute the flux of  $\vec{F} = (xy, x^2 - y^2)$  across the line segment from  $(-1, 3)$  to  $(4, -1)$ .
- (c) Compute the flux of  $\vec{F}(x, y) = (y, x)$  across the arc of the parabola  $y = x^2$  from  $(-1, 1)$  to  $(1, 1)$ .
- (d) Show that the line integral  $\int_C -x dx + y dy$ , where  $C$  is the curve in (c), is the same as the flux of  $\vec{F}(x, y) = (y, x)$  across the curve  $C$ . Can you see why this is automatically true without actually doing the calculation?

If  $\vec{F} = (R, S)$ , then the line integral  $\int_C -S dx + R dy$  computes the flux of  $\vec{F}$  across  $C$ .

3. Determine

- (a)  $\int \int_D (3x - 2y) dA$  where  $D$  is the region bounded by  $x + y = 3$ ,  $y - x = 1$ ,  $y = -1$ ,
- (b) the area of the region bounded by  $y = x$  and the curve  $x + y^2 = 2$ ,
- (c) the area of the region in the first quadrant bounded by  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$  and  $(x - 2)^2 + y^2 = 4$ .

4. Determine and sketch the region of integration for the following integrals. Then express them as iterated integrals in which the order of integration is reversed. Finally, compute their values.

- (a)  $\int_0^1 \left[ \int_{-\sqrt{x}}^{\sqrt{x}} xy dy \right] dx$
- (b)  $\int_1^4 \left[ \int_{x-2}^{\sqrt{x}} xy dy \right] dx$ .

5. Calculate  $\iint_D e^{x^2} dx dy$ , where  $D$  is the triangle with vertices  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 0)$  and  $(1, 1)$ .
6. Use Green's theorem to evaluate the following line integrals.
- $\int_C -y \cos x dx + x \sin y dy$ , where  $C$  is the polygonal path from  $(1, 1)$  to  $(-1, 1)$  to  $(-1, -1)$  to  $(1, -1)$  and back to  $(1, 1)$ ,
  - $\int_C (-y \sin x - x^2 y) dx + (\cos x + xy^2) dy$  where  $C$  is the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$ .
7. Let  $C$  be the curve given by the arc of the parabola  $y = x^2$  from  $(1, 1)$  to  $(0, 0)$  followed by the line segment from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(0, 1)$  and then by the line segment from  $(0, 1)$  to  $(1, 1)$ . Calculate the line integral  $\int_C (xy^2 + y \cos(xy)) dx + (xy + x \cos(xy)) dy$  in two ways. WATCH OUT FOR THE ORIENTATION.

The next exercise makes use of Green's theorem to reduce the computations computation around (or part of) a circle. Indicate which circle you are using and why you may reduce to calculating on a circle.

8. Compute the line integral  $\int_C \frac{-y}{x^2+y^2} dx + \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} dy$  where
- $C$  is the polygonal path from  $(1, 1)$  to  $(-1, 1)$  to  $(-1, -1)$  to  $(1, -1)$  and back to  $(1, 1)$ ,
  - $C$  is the polygonal path from  $(2, 1)$  to  $(-1, 1)$  to  $(-1, -1)$  to  $(2, -1)$  and back to  $(2, 1)$ ,
  - $C$  is the line segment from  $(2, 0)$  to  $(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2})$ .
9. Calculate the areas of the following regions by using a line integral:
- the disc bounded by  $x^2 + y^2 = 81$ ,
  - the quarter circle bounded by  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 0$  and  $x^2 + y^2 = R^2$ ,
  - the triangle with vertices at  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(2, 1)$ , and  $(3, 4)$ ,
  - the region bounded by the curves  $y = 0$ ,  $x = 1$ , and the curve  $y = x^2$  from  $(1, 1)$  to  $(0, 0)$ .
  - the region  $S$  bounded by  $x = 0$ ,  $y = (\tan \alpha)x$  (for  $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$ ), and the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = R^2$  is  $\frac{1}{2}R^2\alpha$ .

10. Let  $D_1$  be the rectangle determined by  $(1, -2)$ ,  $(1, 3)$ ,  $(-1, 3)$ , and  $(-1, -2)$  and let  $D_2$  be the lower half of the disc bounded by  $x^2 + (y + 2)^2 = 1$ . Denote by  $C_i$  the boundary of  $D_i$  traversed in the counterclockwise direction. Sketch these regions and curves.

If  $\vec{F}(x, y) = (\frac{-y}{x^2+y^2} + xy + y, \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} + x^2)$ , calculate  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$  for

- $C = C_1$ ;
- $C = C_2$ ;
- $C$  the boundary of  $D = D_1 \cup D_2$  traversed in the counterclockwise direction.

Parts (b) and (c) of the next question make use of the divergence form of Green's theorem to reduce the computation to a computation across the boundary of a disc. What disc are you using in each case? Why can you reduce to the case of the boundary of a disc?

11. Calculate the outward flux of  $\vec{F}(x, y) = (\frac{x}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{y}{x^2+y^2})$
- across the boundary of the disc  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 81$ ,
  - across the boundary of the square with vertices  $(1, 1)$ ,  $(-1, 1)$ ,  $(-1, -1)$ , and  $(1, -1)$ ,
  - across the boundary of the triangle with vertices at  $(-1, -1)$ ,  $(1, 0)$ , and  $(-1, 1)$ .

12. Let  $u(x, y, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi t} e^{-\frac{1}{2t}(x^2+y^2)}$ , where  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t > 0$ .

(a) Show that  $u$  satisfies the heat equation  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 2\Delta^2 u$ . This partial differential equation is very important in probability for the study of Brownian motion in the plane.

(b) Let  $v(x, y, t) = u(x, y, ct), c > 0$ . Show that  $v$  satisfies the heat equation  $\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = (c/2)\Delta^2 v$ .

The one-dimensional heat equation is  $k \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ . Einstein showed in 1905 that a random particle moving by Brownian motion has its position at time  $t$  governed by  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2t}x^2}$  — a solution of the heat equation with  $k = \frac{1}{2}$ . This means that, if the particle starts at a point  $a$  on the real line, then the probability that it is between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  at time  $t$  is  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} e^{-\frac{1}{2t}(x-a)^2}$ .