

## 14.3: The fundamental Theorem for Line Integrals

## 14.4: Green's Theorem

- Conservative vector field.

(Sect. 14.1)

DEFINITION 1. A vector field  $\mathbf{F}$  is called a **conservative vector field** if it is the gradient of some scalar function  $f$  s.t  $\mathbf{F} = \nabla f$ . In this situation  $f$  is called a **potential function** for  $\mathbf{F}$ .

$$\vec{f}(x, y, z) = \langle P(x, y, z), Q(x, y, z), R(x, y, z) \rangle$$

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f_x = P(x, y, z) \\ f_y = Q(x, y, z) \\ f_z = R(x, y, z) \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow f = ?$$

REMARK 2. Not all vector fields are conservative, but such fields do arise frequently in Physics.

**Illustration: Gravitational Field:** By Newton's Law of Gravitation the magnitude of the gravitational force between two objects with masses  $m$  and  $M$  is The gravitational force acting on the object at  $(x, y, z)$  is

$$|\mathbf{F}| = G \frac{mM}{r^2},$$

where  $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$  is the distance between the objects and  $G$  is the gravitational constant.

Let the position vector of the object with mass  $m$  be  $\mathbf{x} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ . Then

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \quad r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

Then the gravitational force acting on the object at  $\mathbf{x} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$  is

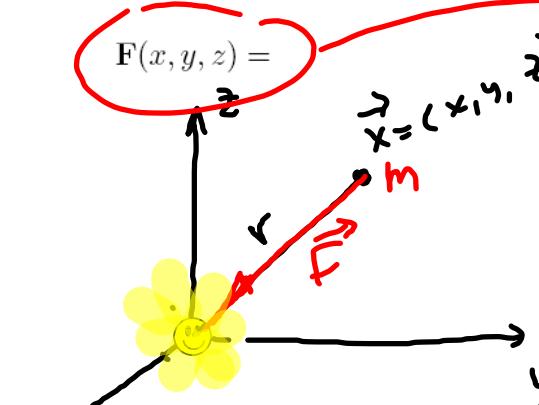


Diagram illustrating the gravitational force  $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z)$  acting on a mass  $m$  located at position  $\mathbf{x} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ . The force is directed towards the center of mass, represented by a red arrow labeled  $\mathbf{F}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}(x, y, z) &= \\ \vec{\mathbf{F}}(x, y, z) &= |\mathbf{F}| \cdot (-\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \\ &= -|\mathbf{F}| \cdot \frac{\langle x, y, z \rangle}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} = \\ &= -\frac{GMm}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \langle x, y, z \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{F}}(x, y, z) = \left\langle -\frac{GMm x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}, -\frac{GMm y}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}, -\frac{GMm z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right\rangle$$

EXAMPLE 3. Let

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

Find its gradient and answer the questions:

- (a) Is the gravitational field conservative?
- (b) What is a potential function of the gravitational field?

$$\nabla f = \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_x &= GmM \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) = \\ &= GmM \cdot \left( -\frac{1}{2} \right) (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 2x = \\ &= -\frac{GmM}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} x \end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla f = -\frac{GmM}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \langle x, y, z \rangle = \vec{f}(x, y, z)$$

Gravitational field

- (a) The gravitational field is conservative.
- (b) Its potential function is the given one up to a constant:

$$f(x, y, z) = \frac{GmM}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} + C$$

The fundamental Theorem for Line Integrals Recall Part 2 of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus:

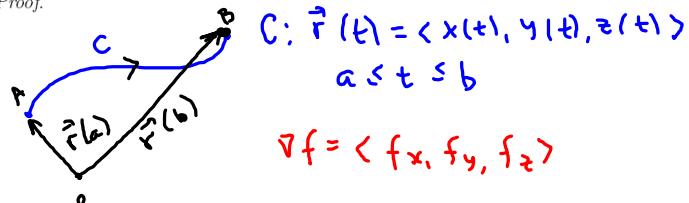
$$\int_a^b F'(x) dx = F(b) - F(a),$$

where  $F'$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ .

Let  $C$  be a smooth curve given by  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ . Let  $f$  be a differentiable function of two or three variables and  $\nabla f$  is continuous on  $C$ . Then

$$\int_C \nabla f \cdot d\mathbf{r} = f(\mathbf{r}(b)) - f(\mathbf{r}(a)). \quad \text{dot product}$$

Proof.



$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} &= \int_a^b \nabla f(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt = \\ &= \int_a^b \langle f_x(\vec{r}(t)), f_y(\vec{r}(t)), f_z(\vec{r}(t)) \rangle \cdot \langle x'(t), y'(t), z'(t) \rangle dt \quad \text{dot product} \\ &= \int_a^b \left( f_x(\vec{r}(t)) x'(t) + f_y(\vec{r}(t)) y'(t) + f_z(\vec{r}(t)) z'(t) \right) dt = \end{aligned}$$

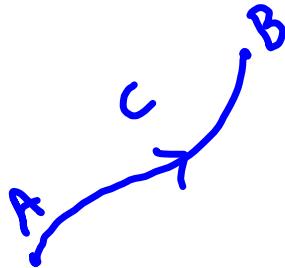
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Chain Rule } \int_a^b \frac{df(\vec{r}(t))}{dt} dt &\stackrel{\text{Fund of Calculus}}{=} \\ &= f(\vec{r}(b)) - f(\vec{r}(a)) \end{aligned}$$

REMARK 4. If  $C$  is a closed curve then  $\vec{r}(a) = \vec{r}(b)$



$$\oint_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$$

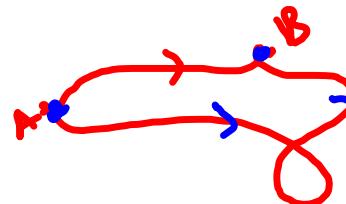
COROLLARY 5. If  $\vec{F}$  is a conservative vector field and  $C$  is a curve with initial point  $A$  and terminal point  $B$  then:



↓

there exist a scalar function  $f$  (potential)  
s.t.  $\vec{F} = \nabla f$

$$\text{work} = \int_{AB} \vec{F} d\vec{r} = \int_{AB} \nabla f d\vec{r} \stackrel{\text{fund theorem}}{=} f(B) - f(A)$$



EXAMPLE 6. Find the work done by the gravitational field

$$\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = -\frac{GmM}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \langle x, y, z \rangle$$

in moving a particle with mass  $m$  from the point  $(1, 2, 2)$  to the point  $(3, 4, 12)$  along a piecewise-smooth curve  $C$ .

By Ex. 3  $\vec{F}$  is conservative  
and its potential is

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

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F} = \nabla f$$

$$W = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{(1, 2, 2)}^{(3, 4, 12)} \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} =$$

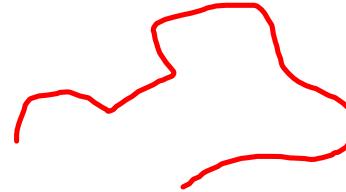
$$= f(3, 4, 12) - f(1, 2, 2) =$$

$$= \frac{GmM}{\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2 + 12^2}} - \frac{GmM}{\sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2}} = GmM \left( \frac{1}{13} - \frac{1}{3} \right) = -\frac{10}{39} GmM$$

Note:  $\int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = - \int_B^A \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$

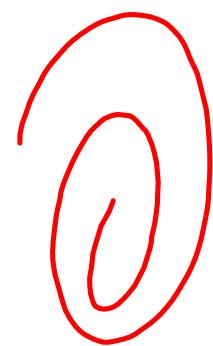
*Notations And Definitions:*

**DEFINITION 7.** A piecewise-smooth curve is called a path.

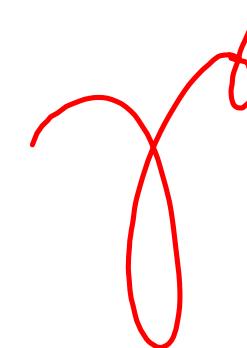


• **Types of curves:**

simple not closed



not simple not closed



simple closed

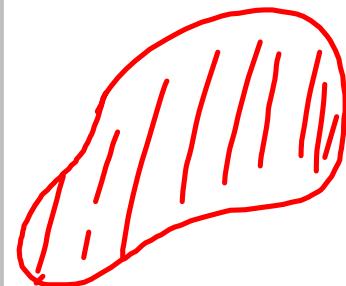


not simple, closed

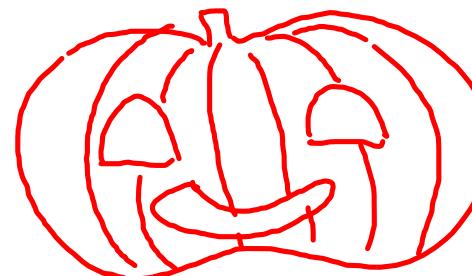


• **Types of regions:**

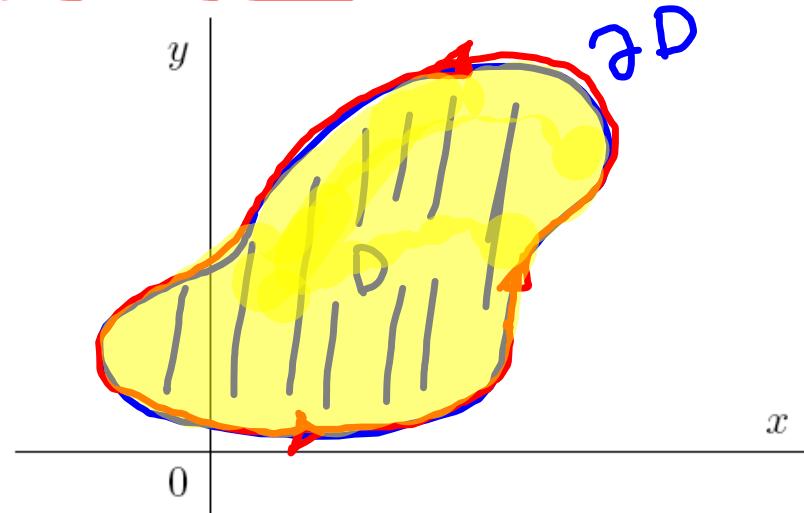
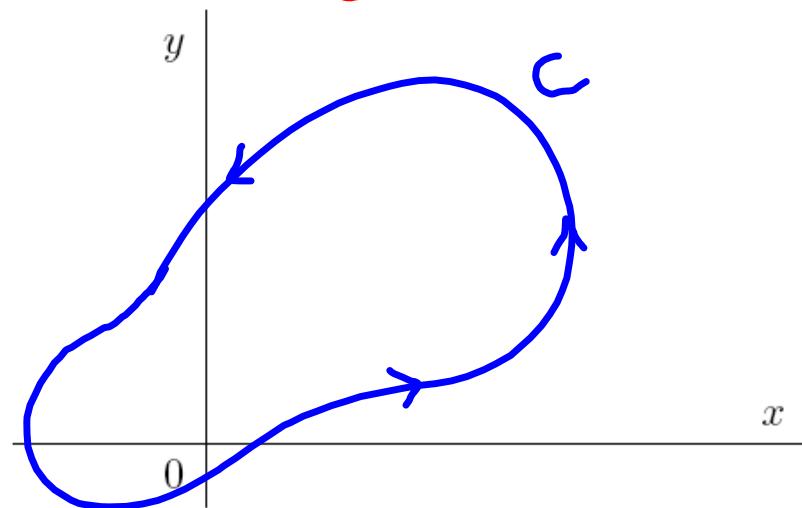
simply connected



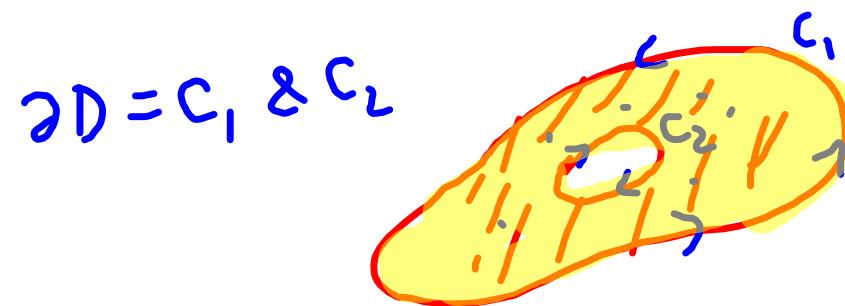
not simply connected



- Convention: The **positive orientation** of a simple closed curve  $C$  refers to a single *counterclockwise* traversal of  $C$ . If  $C$  is given by  $\mathbf{r} = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j}$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ , then the region  $D$  bounded by  $C$  is always on the left as the point  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  traverses  $C$ .



- The positively oriented boundary curve of  $D$  is denoted by  $\partial D$ .



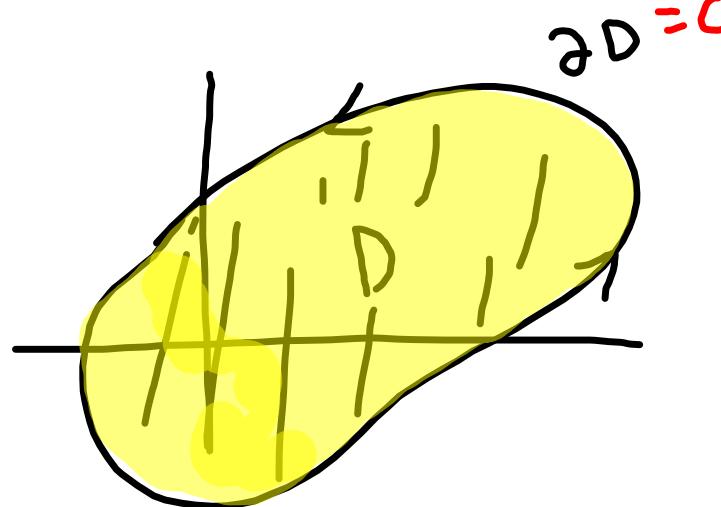
•GREEN's THEOREM: Let  $C$  be a positively oriented, piecewise-smooth, simple closed curve in the plane and let  $D$  be the region bounded by  $C$ . If  $P(x, y)$  and  $Q(x, y)$  have continuous partial derivatives on an open region that contains  $D$ , then

$$\oint_{\partial D} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{\partial D} P dx + Q dy = \iint_D \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dA.$$

$\partial D$

where  
 $\vec{F} = \langle P, Q \rangle$

Important  
that  
 $C$  is closed



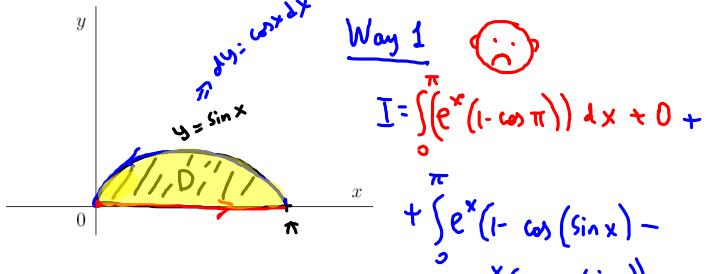
Note, if  $C$  is not positively oriented then

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = - \iint_D \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dA$$

EXAMPLE 8. Evaluate:

$$I = \oint_{C \subset \partial D} e^x(1 - \cos y) dx - e^x(1 - \sin y) dy$$

where  $C$  is the boundary of the domain  $D = \{(x, y) : 0 \leq x \leq \pi, 0 \leq y \leq \sin x\}$ .



Way 1

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_0^\pi [e^x(1 - \cos(\pi)) dx + 0 + \\ &+ \int_0^\pi [e^x(1 - \cos(\sin x)) - \\ &- e^x(1 - \sin(\sin x))] \cos x dx \end{aligned}$$

We don't know how to find an antiderivative.

2<sup>nd</sup> way

Since  $C$  is closed we can apply Green's Theorem:

$$P = e^x(1 - \cos y) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = e^x \sin y$$

$$Q = -e^x(1 - \sin y) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = -e^x(1 - \sin y) = -e^x + e^x \sin y$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = -e^x + e^x \sin y - e^x \sin y = -e^x$$

$$\text{By GT: } I = \iint_D \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dA =$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \iint_D -e^x dA = - \int_0^\pi \int_0^{\sin x} e^x dy dx = \end{aligned}$$

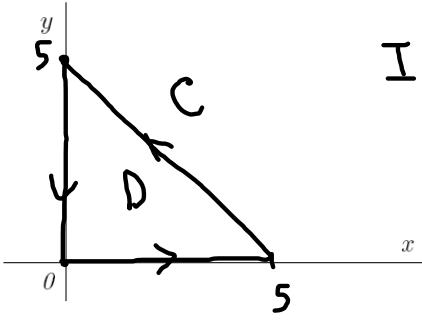
$$\begin{aligned} &\approx - \int_0^\pi e^x \sin x dx = \end{aligned}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} e^x (\sin x - \cos x) \Big|_0^\pi = -\frac{1}{2} (e^\pi + 1)$$

EXAMPLE 9. Let  $C$  be a triangular curve consisting of the line segments from  $(0,0)$  to  $(5,0)$ , from  $(5,0)$  to  $(0,5)$ , and from  $(0,5)$  to  $(0,0)$ . Evaluate the following integrals:

$$(a) I_1 = \oint_C (x^2y + \frac{1}{2}y^2) dx + (xy + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + 3x) dy$$

$C$  is closed  $\Rightarrow$  use Green's Theorem



$$I = \iint_D \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dA$$

$$\text{where } \partial D = C$$

$$P = x^2y + \frac{1}{2}y^2$$

$$Q = xy + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + 3x$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = y + \cancel{x^2} + 3 - (\cancel{x^2} + y) = 3$$

$$I = \iint_D 3 dA = 3 \iint_D dA = 3 \text{ Area } D = 3 \frac{5^2}{2} = \boxed{\frac{75}{2}}$$

$$(b) I_2 = \oint_C (x^2y + \frac{1}{2}y^2 + e^{x \sin x}) dx + (xy + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + x - 4 \arctan(e^y)) dy$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = xy + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + 1 - (x^2 + y) = 1$$

$$I_2 = \iint_D 1 dA = \text{Area } D = \frac{25}{2}$$

$$(c) I_3 = \oint_C (x^2y + \frac{1}{2}y^2 - 55 \arcsin(\sec x)) dx + (12y^5 \cos y^3 + xy + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + x) dy$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = 1 \Rightarrow I_3 = \frac{25}{2}$$

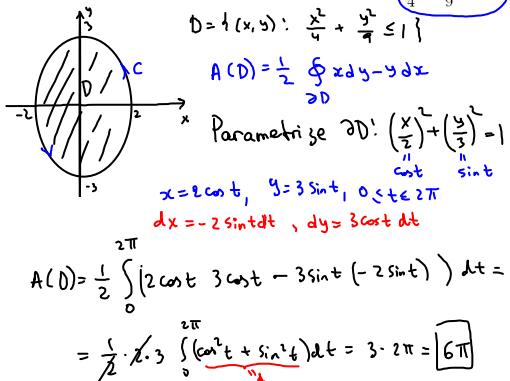
"area of D"

• Application: Computing areas.

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = 1$$

$$A(D) = \oint_{\partial D} x \, dy = - \oint_{\partial D} y \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \oint_{\partial D} x \, dy - y \, dx$$

EXAMPLE 10. Find the area enclosed by the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$ .



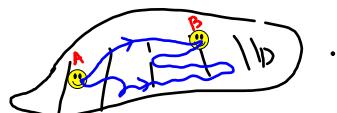
Note: The area bdd by ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$   
is  $\pi ab$

know

SUMMARY: Let  $\vec{F}(x, y) = P(x, y)\hat{i} + Q(x, y)\hat{j}$  be a vector field on an open simply connected domain  $D$ . Suppose that  $P$  and  $Q$  have continuous partial derivatives throughout  $D$ . Then the facts below are equivalent.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{The field } \vec{F} \text{ is conservative on } D & \iff \text{There exists } f \text{ s.t. } \nabla f = \vec{F} \\ \text{definition} & \downarrow \text{a potential} \\ \text{A shaded oval labeled } D \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{The field } \vec{F} \text{ is conservative on } D & \iff \int_{AB} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} \text{ is independent of path in } D \\ \text{definition} & \quad = f(B) - f(A) \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{The field } \vec{F} \text{ is conservative on } D & \iff \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0 \text{ for every closed curve } C \text{ in } D \end{array}$$



$$\vec{F} = P\hat{i} + Q\hat{j}$$
$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{The field } \vec{F} \text{ is conservative on } D & \iff \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \text{ throughout } D \end{array}$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{P}$  is cons.  $\Rightarrow$  there exists a potential  $f$  s.t.  
 $\nabla f = \vec{F} \Rightarrow \langle f_x, f_y \rangle = \langle P, Q \rangle \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow f_x = P \\ f_y = Q \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} f_{xy} = (f_x)_y = P_y \\ f_{yx} = (f_y)_x = Q_x \end{array}$$

$\Leftarrow$  If  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$   $\Rightarrow$  for any closed  $C$

$$\Rightarrow \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} \stackrel{\text{Green's theorem}}{=} \iint_D \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right) dA = 0$$

  $\Rightarrow \vec{F}$  is conservative

EXAMPLE 11. Determine whether or not the vector field is conservative:

(a)  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \langle \overbrace{x^2 + y^2}^P, \overbrace{2xy}^Q \rangle$ .

$$P_y = 2y \Rightarrow P_y = Q_x \Rightarrow \text{YES}$$
$$Q_x = 2y$$

(b)  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \langle \underbrace{x^2 + 3y^2 + 2}_P, \underbrace{3x + ye^y}_Q \rangle$

$$P_y = 6y \Rightarrow P_y \neq Q_x \Rightarrow \text{NO}$$
$$Q_x = 3$$

EXAMPLE 12. Given  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \sin y \mathbf{i} + (\underline{x \cos y + \sin y}) \mathbf{j}$ .

(a) Show that  $\mathbf{F}$  is conservative.

$$P_y = \cos y \Rightarrow P_y = Q_x \Rightarrow \text{cons.}$$

$$Q_x = \cos y$$

(b) Find a function  $f$  s.t.  $\nabla f = \mathbf{F}$  (find a potential function)

$$\begin{aligned} f_x &= P \\ f_y &= Q \end{aligned} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} f_x = \sin y \\ f_y = x \cos y + \sin y \end{array} \right. \Rightarrow f(x, y) = \int \sin y \, dx = x \sin y + C(y) \\ &\quad \left| \begin{array}{l} f(x, y) = x \sin y + C(y) \\ (x \sin y + C(y))_y = x \cos y + \sin y \end{array} \right. \\ &\quad \cancel{x \cos y + C'(y)} = \cancel{x \cos y + \sin y} \\ &\quad C'(y) = \sin y \\ &\quad C(y) = \int \sin y \, dy = -\cos y + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore f(x, y) = x \sin y - \cos y + C$$

(c) Find the work done by the force field  $\mathbf{F}$  in moving a particle from the point  $(3, 0)$  to the point  $(0, \pi/2)$ .

$$W = \int_{(3,0)}^{(0,\pi/2)} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\text{f is cons.}}{=} \int_{(3,0)}^{(0,\pi/2)} \nabla f \cdot d\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\text{Fundam. Theorem}}{=}$$

$$= f(0, \frac{\pi}{2}) - f(3, 0) =$$

$$= 0 \sin \frac{\pi}{2} - \cos \frac{\pi}{2} + C - (3 \sin 0 - \cos 0 + C) = 1$$

(d) Evaluate  $\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  where  $C$  is an arbitrary path in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

$$\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = 0 \quad (\text{since } \mathbf{F} \text{ is conservative})$$

EXAMPLE 13. Given

$$\vec{F}(x, y, z) = \langle P, Q, R \rangle = \langle 2xy^3 + z^2, 3x^2y^2 + 2yz, y^2 + 2xz \rangle = \nabla f = \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle$$

Find a function  $f$  s.t.  $\nabla f = \vec{F}$

$$f_x = 2xy^3 + z^2 \Rightarrow f(x, y, z) = \int (2xy^3 + z^2) dx$$

$$f_y = 3x^2y^2 + 2yz \leftarrow f(x, y, z) = x^2y^3 + xz^2 + C(y, z)$$

$$f_z = y^2 + 2xz \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2y^3 + xz^2 + C(y, z)) = 3x^2y^2 + 2yz$$

$$3x^2y^2 + 0 + \frac{\partial C(y, z)}{\partial y} = 3x^2y^2 + 2yz$$

$$C(y, z) = \int 2yz dy + K(z) =$$
$$= y^2z + K(z)$$

Update  $f$ :

$$f(x, y, z) = x^2y^3 + xz^2 + y^2z + K(z)$$

$$0 + 2xz + y^2 + K'(z) = y^2 + 2xz$$

$$K'(z) = 0$$

$$K(z) = \text{constant}$$

Update  $f$ :

$$f(x, y, z) = x^2y^3 + xz^2 + y^2z + C$$

potential  
function  
for  $\vec{F}$

Note: The result means that  $\vec{F}$  is conservative.