



F19\_LN\_1...

### 16.2: Line Integrals

**Line integrals on plane:** Let  $C$  be a plane curve with parametric equations:

$$x = x(t), y = y(t), \quad a \leq t \leq b,$$

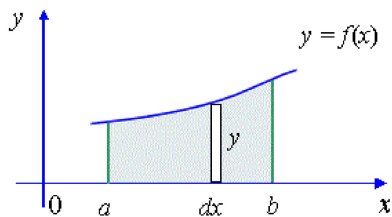
or we can write the parametrization of the curve as a vector function:

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t) \rangle, \quad a \leq t \leq b.$$

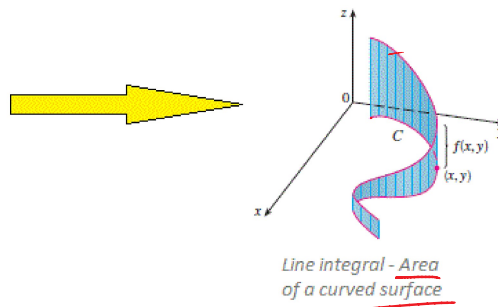
DEFINITION 1. The line integral of  $f(x, y)$  with respect to arc length, or the **line integral of  $f$  along  $C$**  is

$$\int_C f(x, y) \, ds$$

*length element on C*



Definite integral - Area of a flat surface



Line integral - Area of a curved surface

<https://brilliant.org/wiki/line-integral/>

Recall that the *arc length* of a curve given by parametric equations  $x = x(t), y = y(t), \quad a \leq t \leq b$  can be found as

$$L = \int_a^b ds,$$

where

$$ds = \sqrt{(x'(t))^2 + (y'(t))^2} dt.$$

The line integral is then

$$\int_C f(x, y) \, ds = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t)) \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2} \, dt$$

*For length we took  $f \equiv 1$*

If we use the vector form of the parametrization we can simplify the notation up noticing that

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle x'(t), y'(t) \rangle$$

and then

$$ds = \sqrt{(x'(t))^2 + (y'(t))^2} dt =$$

Using this notation, the line integral becomes

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Using this notation the line integral becomes,

$$\int_C f(x, y) ds = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t)) |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt.$$

REMARK 2. The value of the line integral does not depend on the parametrization of the curve, provided that *the curve is traversed exactly once as  $t$  increases from  $a$  to  $b$ .*

Let us emphasize that  $ds = |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt = \sqrt{[x'(t)]^2 + [y'(t)]^2} dt.$

EXAMPLE 3. Evaluate the line integral  $\int_C y ds$ , where  $C : x = t^3, y = t^2, 0 \leq t \leq 1.$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C y ds &= \int_0^1 t^2 \cdot \frac{\sqrt{(3t^2)^2 + (2t)^2}}{\underbrace{(x'(t))^2} \quad \underbrace{(y'(t))^2}} dt = \int_0^1 t^2 \sqrt{9t^4 + 4t^2} dt = \\ &= \int_0^1 t^2 \cdot t \sqrt{9t^2 + 4} dt = \frac{1}{18} \int_4^{13} \frac{u-4}{9} \sqrt{u} du = \frac{1}{18 \cdot 9} \int_4^{13} (u^{3/2} - 4u^{1/2}) du = \dots \end{aligned}$$

$u = 9t^2 + 4 \xrightarrow{t:0 \rightarrow 1} u: 4 \rightarrow 13$   
 $du = 18t dt \Rightarrow t dt = \frac{1}{18} du$   
 $\rightarrow t^2 = \frac{u-4}{9}$

**Line integrals in space:** Let  $C$  be a space curve with parametric equations:

$$x = x(t), y = y(t), z = z(t), \quad a \leq t \leq b,$$

or

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j} + z(t)\mathbf{k}, \quad a \leq t \leq b.$$

The **line integral of  $f$  along  $C$**  is

$$\int_C f(x, y, z) ds = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt.$$

Here

$$ds = |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt = \sqrt{[x'(t)]^2 + [y'(t)]^2 + [z'(t)]^2} dt.$$

EXAMPLE 4. Evaluate the line integral  $\int_C (x + y + z) ds$ , where  $C$  is the line segment joining the points  $A(-1, 1, 2)$  and  $B(2, 3, 1).$

Parametrize the segment:  $\vec{AB} = \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle$

Parametric  $\begin{cases} x = -1 + 3t \\ y = 1 + 2t \\ z = 2 - t \end{cases} \Rightarrow ds = \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2 + z'(t)^2} dt$

Parametric equation is:

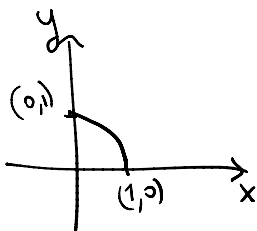
$$\begin{cases} x = -1 + 3t \\ y = 1 + 2t \\ z = 2 - t \end{cases}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1 \Rightarrow ds = \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2 + z'(t)^2} dt = \sqrt{9 + 4 + 1} dt = \sqrt{14} dt$$

$$\int_C (x+y+z) ds = \int_0^1 ((-1+3t) + (1+2t) + (2-t)) \sqrt{14} dt = \sqrt{14} \int_0^1 (2+4t) dt = \sqrt{14} (2+2) = \boxed{4\sqrt{14}}$$

**Physical interpretation of a line integral:** Let  $\rho(x, y, z)$  represents the linear density at a point  $(x, y, z)$  of a thin wire shaped like a curve  $C$ . Then the **mass**  $m$  of the wire is:

$$m = \int_C \rho(x, y, z) ds.$$

EXAMPLE 5. A thin wire with the linear density  $\rho(x, y) = x^2 + 2y^2$  takes the shape of the curve  $C$  which consists of the arc of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  from  $(1, 0)$  to  $(0, 1)$ . *Counterclockwise*. Find the mass of the wire.



Parametrize the curve  $C$

$$\begin{cases} x = \cos \theta \\ y = \sin \theta \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$ds = \sqrt{x'(\theta)^2 + y'(\theta)^2} d\theta = \sqrt{(-\sin \theta)^2 + (\cos \theta)^2} d\theta = d\theta$$

$$m = \int_S \rho(x, y) ds = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\cos^2 \theta + 2 \sin^2 \theta) d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (1 + \sin^2 \theta) d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \theta + \frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} + 0 \right) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

**Line integrals with respect to  $x, y,$  and  $z$ .** Let  $C$  be a space curve with parametric equations:

$$x = x(t), y = y(t), z = z(t), \quad a \leq t \leq b,$$

The line integral of  $f$  with respect to  $x$  is,

$$\int_a^b f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) x'(t) dt$$

The line integral of  $f$  with respect to  $x$  is,

$$\int_C f(x, y, z) dx = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) x'(t) dt.$$

The line integral of  $f$  with respect to  $y$  is,

$$\int_C f(x, y, z) dy = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) y'(t) dt.$$

The line integral of  $f$  with respect to  $z$  is,

$$\int_C f(x, y, z) dz = \int_a^b f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) z'(t) dt$$

These integrals often appear together by the following notation:

$$\int_C P dx + Q dy + R dz = \int_C P dx + \int_C Q dy + \int_C R dz$$

or

$$\int_C P dx + Q dy = \int_C P dx + \int_C Q dy$$

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$$\vec{F} = \left\langle -\frac{y}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} \right\rangle$$

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EXAMPLE 6. Compute

$$I = \int_C -\frac{y}{x^2+y^2} dx + \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} dy,$$

where  $C$  is the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  oriented in the counterclockwise direction.

Parametrize  $C$ :  $x = \cos \theta$ ,  $y = \sin \theta$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$

$x'(\theta) = -\sin \theta$   
 $y'(\theta) = \cos \theta$

$$I = \int_0^{2\pi} \left( -\frac{\sin \theta}{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} \cdot (-\sin \theta) + \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} \cdot \cos \theta \right) d\theta =$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} (\underbrace{\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta}_1) d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi$$

**Line integrals of vector fields.**

PROBLEM: Given a continuous force field,

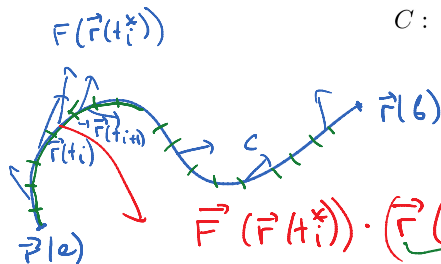
$$\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = P(x, y, z)\mathbf{i} + Q(x, y, z)\mathbf{j} + R(x, y, z)\mathbf{k},$$

such as a gravitational field. Find the work done by the force  $\mathbf{F}$  in moving a particle along a curve

$$\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = P(x, y, z)\mathbf{i} + Q(x, y, z)\mathbf{j} + R(x, y, z)\mathbf{k},$$

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$$C: \mathbf{r}(t) = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j} + z(t)\mathbf{k}, \quad a \leq t \leq b.$$



$\vec{F}$   $\vec{AB}$  constant vector field  
 $W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{AB}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t_i^*)) \cdot (\vec{r}(t_{i+1}) - \vec{r}(t_i)) \\ &= \vec{F}'(t_i) \frac{(t_{i+1} - t_i)}{\Delta t_i} + O(\Delta t_i^2) \\ &= \underbrace{(P, Q, R)}_{\vec{F}(t)} \cdot \langle x', y', z' \rangle \\ \lim_{\Delta t_i \rightarrow 0} \sum \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t_i^*)) (\vec{r}(t_{i+1}) - \vec{r}(t_i)) &= \int_a^b \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt = \\ &= \int_a^b P(x(t), y(t), z(t)) x'(t) + Q(x(t), y(t), z(t)) y'(t) + R(x(t), y(t), z(t)) z'(t) dt \end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION 7. Let  $\mathbf{F}$  be a continuous vector field defined on a curve  $C$  given by a vector function  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ . Then the line integral of  $\mathbf{F}$  along  $C$  is  $= \int_a^b P dx + Q dy + R dz$

$$\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}(t) = \int_a^b \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{r}'(t) dt.$$

REMARK 8. Note that this integral depends on the curve orientation:

$$\int_{-C} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}(t) = - \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}(t)$$

Relationship between line integrals of vector fields and line integrals with respect to  $x, y$ , and  $z$ .

$$\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}(t) = \int_C \langle P, Q, R \rangle \cdot \langle dx, dy, dz \rangle = \int_C P dx + Q dy + R dz$$

EXAMPLE 9. Find the work done by the force field  $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = \langle xy, yz, xz \rangle$  in moving a particle along the curve  $C: \mathbf{r}(t) = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ .

$$W = \int_0^1 \langle \underbrace{t \cdot t^2}_{x \cdot y}, \underbrace{t^2 \cdot t^3}_{y \cdot z}, \underbrace{t \cdot t^3}_{x \cdot z} \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 2t, 3t^2 \rangle dt =$$

$$W = \int_0^1 \langle \underbrace{t \cdot t^2}_{x(t) \cdot y(t)}, \underbrace{t^2 \cdot t^3}_{y(t) \cdot z(t)}, \underbrace{t \cdot t^3}_{x(t) \cdot z(t)} \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 2t, 3t^2 \rangle dt =$$

$x'(t)=1, y'(t)=2t, z'(t)=3t^2$

$$\int_0^1 \langle \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}' \rangle \cdot \langle x', y', z' \rangle dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 \langle t^3, t^5, t^4 \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 2t, 3t^2 \rangle dt = \int_0^1 (t^3 + 2t^6 + 3t^6) dt =$$

$$= \int_0^1 (t^3 + 5t^6) dt = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{5}{7} = \boxed{\frac{27}{28}}$$



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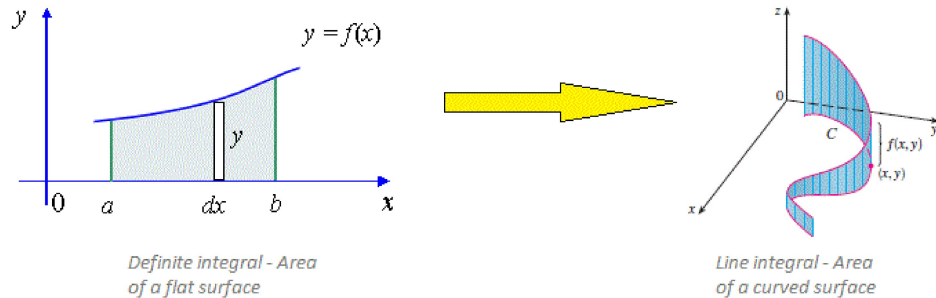
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The **line integral of  $f$  with respect to  $y$**  is,

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