



F19\_LN\_1...

## 16.2: Line Integrals

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

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

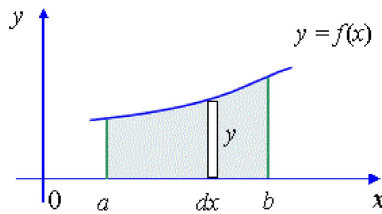
or we can write the parametrization of the curve as a vector function:

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

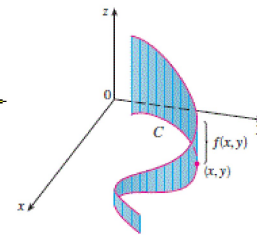
DEFINITION 1. The line integral of  $f(x, y)$  with respect to arc length, or the **line integral of  $f$  along  $C$**  is

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

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 the 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

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

Using this notation the line integral becomes,

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

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  $b$ .  $\rightarrow$  consequence of a chain rule.

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  $C : x = t^3, y = t^2, 0 \leq t \leq 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C y ds &= \int_0^1 \frac{t^2}{y} \sqrt{\underbrace{9t^4}_{(x'(t))^2} + \underbrace{4t^2}_{(y'(t))^2}} dt = \int_0^1 \frac{t^2}{\frac{t^2}{9}} \cdot t \sqrt{9t^2 + 4} dt = \\ &= \frac{1}{18} \int_4^{13} \frac{u-4}{9} \cdot \sqrt{u} du = \frac{1}{162} \int_4^{13} (u^{3/2} - 4u^{1/2}) du = \dots \end{aligned}$$

$x' = 3t^2, y' = 2t$   
 $u = 9t^2 + 4$   
 $du = 18t dt$   
 $t dt = \frac{1}{18} du$   
 $t: 0 \rightarrow 1$   
 $u: 4 \rightarrow 13$

**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  $C$ :  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle$

$$C \text{ can be parametrized by: } \begin{cases} x = -1 + 3t \\ y = 1 + 2t \\ z = 2 - t \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

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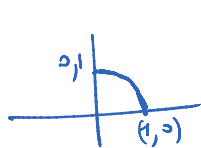
$$\begin{aligned} r'(t) &= \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle \Rightarrow ds = |r'(t)| dt = \sqrt{9+4+1} dt = \sqrt{14} dt \\ \int_C (x+y+z) ds &= \int_0^1 \left( \underbrace{-1+3t}_x + \underbrace{1+2t}_y + \underbrace{2-t}_z \right) \sqrt{14} dt = \sqrt{14} \int_0^1 (2+4t) dt = \\ &= \sqrt{14} \left( 2 + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right) = \boxed{4\sqrt{14}} \end{aligned}$$

**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  $(0, 1)$ . *counter clock wise* Find the mass of the wire.

Solution Parametrize this arc by the angle:



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

$$\begin{aligned} ds &= \sqrt{(x')^2 + (y')^2} d\theta = \sqrt{(-\sin \theta)^2 + (\cos \theta)^2} d\theta = d\theta \\ m &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \underbrace{(\cos^2 \theta + 2 \sin^2 \theta)}_{1 + \sin^2 \theta} d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left( 1 + \underbrace{\sin^2 \theta}_{\frac{1 - \cos 2\theta}{2}} \right) d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{3}{2} d\theta - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos 2\theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} = \boxed{\frac{3\pi}{4}} \end{aligned}$$

*$\frac{1}{4} \sin 2\theta \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0$*

**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,

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

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

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

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

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

Rem

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

$$\begin{aligned} x'(\theta) &= -\sin \theta \\ y'(\theta) &= \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$I = \int_C -\frac{y}{x^2+y^2} \, dx + \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} \, dy = \int_0^{2\pi} \left[ -\frac{\sin \theta}{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} \cdot (-\sin \theta) + \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} \cdot \cos \theta \right] d\theta$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) \, d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} 1 \, d\theta = 2\pi$$

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

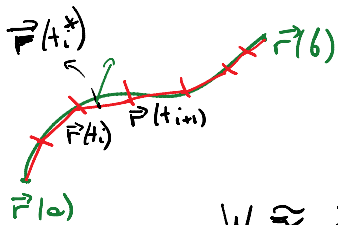
$$C: \mathbf{r}(t) = x(t)\mathbf{i} + y(t)\mathbf{j} + z(t)\mathbf{k}, \quad a \leq t \leq b.$$

$\vec{F}(t)$

$\vec{r}'(t)$

We want to calculate the work done by  $\vec{F}$  in moving a particle along the curve  $C$ .





We want to calculate the work done by  $F$  in moving a particle along the curve  $C$ .

Recall



$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{AB}$$

the ratio of this with  $\Delta t_i$  goes to 0 as  $\Delta t_i \rightarrow 0$

$$W \approx \sum_i \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t_i^*)) \cdot (\vec{r}(t_{i+1}) - \vec{r}(t_i)) \approx \sum_i \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t_i^*)) \cdot (\vec{r}'(t_i) \Delta t_i + o(\Delta t_i))$$

$$\approx \sum_i \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t_i^*)) \vec{r}'(t_i) \Delta t_i \xrightarrow{\Delta t_i \rightarrow 0} \int_a^b \vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt =$$

DEFINITION 7. Let  $F$  be a continuous vector field defined on a curve  $C$  given by a vector function  $r(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ . Then the line integral of  $F$  along  $C$  is

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

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  $z$ .

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

$$= \int_a^b \langle P, Q, R \rangle \cdot \langle x', y', z' \rangle dt$$

after parametrization

$$= \int_a^b [P(x(t), y(t), z(t)) x'(t) + Q(x(t), y(t), z(t)) y'(t) + R(x(t), y(t), z(t)) z'(t)] dt$$

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  $C: \mathbf{r}(t) = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ .

$$W = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}(t) = \int_0^1 \left\langle \frac{t \cdot t^2}{t^3}, \frac{t^4 \cdot t^3}{t^6}, \frac{t \cdot t^3}{t^4} \right\rangle \cdot \langle 1, 2t, 3t^2 \rangle dt =$$

dot product

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= t & x'(t) &= 1 \\ y(t) &= t^2 & y'(t) &= 2t \\ z(t) &= t^3 & z'(t) &= 3t^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= t^2 \Rightarrow y'(t) = 2t \\ z(t) &= t^3 \Rightarrow z'(t) = 3t^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_0^1 (t^3 + 2t^6 + 3t^6) dt = \int_0^1 (t^3 + 5t^6) dt = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{5}{7} = \frac{27}{28}$$