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Testing for Conservative Fields

Which fields in Exercises 1–6 are conservative, and which are not?

6. $\mathbf{F} = (e^x \cos y)\mathbf{i} - (e^x \sin y)\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$

Sol'n: Since natural domain of \mathbf{F} is \mathbb{R}^3 , it is open and simply connected.
 So it suffices to check that the PDEs in Cor 9 of lecture notes are satisfied.

$$\begin{cases} M = e^x \cos y \\ N = -e^x \sin y \\ L = z \end{cases}$$

Then $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = -e^x \sin y$, $\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = -e^x \sin y$

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial M}{\partial z} = 0.$$

Since $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial N}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial z}$, we verify that \mathbf{F} is conservative.

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Finding Potential Functions

In Exercises 7–12, find a potential function f for the field \mathbf{F} .

7. $\mathbf{F} = 2x\mathbf{i} + 3y\mathbf{j} + 4z\mathbf{k}$

8. $\mathbf{F} = (y+z)\mathbf{i} + (x+z)\mathbf{j} + (x+y)\mathbf{k}$

9. $\mathbf{F} = e^{y+2z}(\mathbf{i} + x\mathbf{j} + 2x\mathbf{k})$

10. $\mathbf{F} = (y \sin z)\mathbf{i} + (x \sin z)\mathbf{j} + (xy \cos z)\mathbf{k}$

So $f(x, y, z) = xy \sin z + C$
for constant $C \in \mathbb{R}$. 

Soln: Need to find f s.t. $\nabla f = \mathbf{F}$, i.e.

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = y \sin z, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x \sin z, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = xy \cos z.$$

$$f = \int y \sin z \, dx = xy \sin z + g(y, z) + C$$

and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x \sin z + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = x \sin z \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = 0$.

So $f = xy \sin z + h(z)$.

and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = xy \cos z + \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = xy \cos z \Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = 0$.

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$$12. \mathbf{F} = \frac{y}{1+x^2y^2}\mathbf{i} + \left(\frac{x}{1+x^2y^2} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}} \right) \mathbf{j} + \left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}} + \frac{1}{z} \right) \mathbf{k}$$

soll: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{y}{1+x^2y^2}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{x}{1+x^2y^2} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}} + \frac{1}{z}$

$$f = \int \frac{y}{1+x^2y^2} dx = \arctan(xy) + g(y, z) + C_1$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{x}{1+x^2y^2} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}} = \frac{x}{1+x^2y^2} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \frac{z}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow g = \int \frac{z}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}} dy = \arcsin(yz) + h(z) + C_2$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{1-y^2z^2}} + \frac{1}{z} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{z} \Rightarrow h = \int \frac{1}{z} dz = \ln|z| + C_3$$

So $f(x, y, z) = \arctan(xy) + \arcsin(yz) + \ln|z| + C$ for constant $C \in \mathbb{R}$

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Exact Differential Forms

In Exercises 13–17, show that the differential forms in the integrals are exact. Then evaluate the integrals.

16. $\int_{(0,0,0)}^{(3,3,1)} 2x \, dx - y^2 \, dy - \frac{4}{1+z^2} \, dz$

Sol'n: Domain is open simply connected.

$$M = 2x, N = -y^2, L = -\frac{4}{1+z^2}$$

Check $\frac{\partial M}{\partial z} = 0 = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = 0 = \frac{\partial N}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = 0 = \frac{\partial M}{\partial y}$.

So $2x \, dx - y^2 \, dy - \frac{4}{1+z^2} \, dz$ is exact.

So $\int_{(0,0,0)}^{(3,3,1)} 2x \, dx - y^2 \, dy - \frac{4}{1+z^2} \, dz = f(3,3,1) - f(0,0,0)$ for some function f

s.t. $df = 2x \, dx - y^2 \, dy - \frac{4}{1+z^2} \, dz$.

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -y^2, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{-4}{1+z^2}$$

$$f = \int 2x \, dx = x^2 + g(y, z) + C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = -y^2 \Rightarrow g = \int -y^2 \, dy = -\frac{1}{3}y^3 + h(z) + C_2.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = \frac{-4}{1+z^2} \Rightarrow h = \int \frac{-4}{1+z^2} \, dz = -4 \arctan z + C_3.$$

$$\text{So } f(x, y, z) = x^2 - \frac{1}{3}y^3 - 4 \arctan z + C, \quad C \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } & \int_{(0,0,0)}^{(3,3,1)} 2x \, dx - y^2 \, dy - \frac{4}{1+z^2} \, dz = f(3, 3, 1) - f(0, 0, 0) \\ & = 3^2 - \frac{1}{3}3^3 - 4 \arctan(1) \\ & = \boxed{-\pi} \end{aligned}$$

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Finding Potential Functions to Evaluate Line Integrals

Although they are not defined on all of space R^3 , the fields associated with Exercises 18–22 are conservative. Find a potential function for each field, and evaluate the integrals as in Example 6.

18. $\int_{(0,2,1)}^{(1,\pi/2,2)} 2 \cos y \, dx + \left(\frac{1}{y} - 2x \sin y \right) dy + \frac{1}{z} dz$

Sol'n: Since field is conservative

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2 \cos y \Rightarrow f = \int 2 \cos y \, dx = 2x \cos y + g(y, z) + C_1$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -2x \sin y + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{y} \Rightarrow g = \ln|y| + h(z) + C_2.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{z} \Rightarrow h = \ln|z| + C_3.$$

So $f(x, y, z) = 2x \cos y + \ln|y| + \ln|z| + C.$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Integral} &= f(1, \frac{\pi}{2}, 2) - f(0, 2, 1) = 2 \cdot \cancel{1 \cdot \cos \frac{\pi}{2}}^0 + \ln \cancel{\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)}^0 + \ln|2| - 2 \cdot \cancel{0 \cdot \cos 2}^0 - \ln|2| \\ &\quad - \ln \cancel{1^0}^0 = \boxed{\ln \frac{\pi}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

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$$20. \int_{(1,2,1)}^{(2,1,1)} (2x \ln y - yz) dx + \left(\frac{x^2}{y} - xz \right) dy - xy dz$$

Sol'n: $f = \int (2x \ln y - yz) dx = x^2 \ln y - xyz + g(y, z) + C_1$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{x^2}{y} - xz + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \frac{x^2}{y} - xz \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = 0.$$

$$\text{So } f = x^2 \ln y - xyz + h(z) + C_1.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = -xy + \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = -xy \Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x, y, z) = x^2 \ln y - xyz + C.$$

$$\text{Integral} = f(2, 1, 1) - f(1, 2, 1) = 2^2 \ln(1) - 2 \cdot 1 - 1^2 \ln(2) + 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = \boxed{-\ln 2}$$

$$\underline{\text{B.3}} \quad 22. \int_{(-1,-1,-1)}^{(2,2,2)} \frac{2x \, dx + 2y \, dy + 2z \, dz}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

Soln: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{2x}{x^2+y^2+z^2}, \Rightarrow f = \int \frac{2x}{x^2+y^2+z^2} dx = \ln(x^2+y^2+z^2) + g(y, z) + C_1$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{2x}{x^2+y^2+z^2} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \frac{2x}{x^2+y^2+z^2} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = 0.$$

$$\text{So } f = \ln(x^2+y^2+z^2) + h(z) + C_1$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{2z}{x^2+y^2+z^2} + \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = \frac{2z}{x^2+y^2+z^2} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\text{So } f(x, y, z) = \ln(x^2+y^2+z^2) + C.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Integral} &= f(2, 2, 2) - f(-1, -1, -1) = \ln(2^2+2^2+2^2) - \ln((-1)^2+(-1)^2+(-1)^2) \\ &= \ln 12 - \ln 3 = \boxed{\ln 4} \end{aligned}$$

IS.3 **Independence of path** Show that the values of the integrals in Exercises 25 and 26 do not depend on the path taken from A to B.

25. $\int_A^B z^2 dx + 2y dy + 2xz dz$

26. $\int_A^B \frac{x dx + y dy + z dz}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$

Sol'n: Suffices to show $F = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \hat{i} + \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \hat{j} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \hat{k}$ is conservative.

$$= M \hat{i} + N \hat{j} + L \hat{k}$$

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{2} (x^2+y^2+z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 2xy = \frac{xy}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}.$$

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{2} (x^2+y^2+z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 2yz = \frac{yz}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial y}.$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{2} (x^2+y^2+z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 2xz = \frac{xz}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial x}.$$

Since F is conservative, integral is path-independent. \checkmark

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In Exercises 27 and 28, find a potential function for \mathbf{F} .

27. $\mathbf{F} = \frac{2x}{y}\mathbf{i} + \left(\frac{1-x^2}{y^2}\right)\mathbf{j}, \quad \{(x,y): y > 0\}$

28. $\mathbf{F} = (e^x \ln y)\mathbf{i} + \left(\frac{e^x}{y} + \sin z\right)\mathbf{j} + (y \cos z)\mathbf{k}$

Sol'n: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = e^x \ln y \Rightarrow f = \int e^x \ln y dx = e^x \ln y + g(y, z) + C_1$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{e^x}{y} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \frac{e^x}{y} + \sin z. \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = \sin z$$

$$\Rightarrow g = \int \sin z dz = y \sin z + h(z) + C_2.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = y \cos z + \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = y \cos z \Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = 0.$$

So $f(x, y, z) = e^x \ln y + y \sin z + C$ where $\vec{\nabla} f = \vec{F}$.

15.3 38. Gravitational field

- a. Find a potential function for the gravitational field

$$\mathbf{F} = -GmM \frac{x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

(G , m , and M are constants).

- b. Let P_1 and P_2 be points at distances s_1 and s_2 from the origin.

Show that the work done by the gravitational field in part (a) in moving a particle from P_1 to P_2 is

$$GmM \left(\frac{1}{s_2} - \frac{1}{s_1} \right).$$

Soln: a) $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = -\frac{GmM x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$.

$$\Rightarrow f = -GmM \int \frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} dx = \frac{GmM}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} + g(y, z) + C_1.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -\frac{GmM y}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = -\frac{GmM y}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = 0.$$

$$\text{So } f = \frac{GmM}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} + h(z) + C_1.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = -\frac{GmMz}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} + \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = -\frac{GmMz}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = 0.$$

$$\text{So } f = \frac{GmM}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} + C.$$

b) At P_1 , $s_1 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + y_1^2 + z_1^2}$, P_2 , $s_2 = \sqrt{x_2^2 + y_2^2 + z_2^2}$.

$$\text{So work done} = \int_{P_1}^{P_2} F ds = f(s_2) - f(s_1) = GmM \left(\frac{1}{s_2} - \frac{1}{s_1} \right).$$