

18.1 Coordinate changes and vector integral theorems

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS divergence • conservative field

Objective

Transform double and triple integrals with their Jacobians; Apply Green, Stokes and divergence theorems with correct orientation; Check domain singularities before asserting path independence.

Original public practice. Marking guidance is authored locally. Use the topic reference for prerequisites and full theorem statements.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

divergence : The sum of a vector field's coordinate-wise partial derivatives measuring local outward flow.

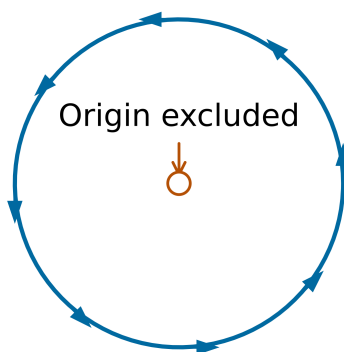
conservative field : A vector field equal to a scalar potential gradient with path-independent line integrals.

Changing variables scales area or volume by the absolute Jacobian determinant. Polar coordinates use $r dr d\theta$; cylindrical coordinates use $r dr d\theta dz$; spherical coordinates with ϕ measured from the positive z -axis use $\rho^2 \sin(\phi) d\rho d\phi d\theta$. State angle conventions and transform both the integrand and the region. A missing Jacobian changes a uniform density integral into the wrong physical quantity.

For $F=(x,y,z)$, divergence is 3. The outward flux through the sphere of radius 2 is therefore 3 times its volume, or $3 \cdot (4\pi \cdot 2^3/3)=32\pi$. This avoids a surface parameterisation. For the planar field $(-y,x)$, Green's theorem gives counterclockwise unit-circle circulation as integral of $1-(-1)=2$ over the disk, hence 2π . Reversing the orientation changes the circulation sign.

A hole can prevent a global potential

$$\mathbf{F} = (-y/r^2, x/r^2)$$



Unit-circle circulation = 2π , despite zero curl

Zero curl but circulation 2π : the hole at the origin prevents a global potential

2 Practice

2.1 What is the polar-coordinate area element?

[1]

- A $dr \, d\theta$
 - B $r \, dr \, d\theta$
 - C $r^2 \, dr \, d\theta$
 - D $\sin(\theta) \, dr \, d\theta$
 - E $r^{-1} \, dr \, d\theta$
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2.2 For $\mathbf{F}=(x,y,z)$, what is the outward flux through the unit sphere?

[1]

- A 0
 - B π
 - C 2π
 - D 4π
 - E 12π
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2.3 Evaluate $\iint_D (x^2 + y^2) dA$ on $1 \leq x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$. Find the outward flux of $F = (x, y, z)$ across the unit sphere. [4]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Let $G = (-y/(x^2 + y^2), x/(x^2 + y^2))$ on the punctured plane. Its scalar curl is zero there. Evaluate its circulation on the counterclockwise unit circle. Explain why Green's theorem does not make it zero. [4]
