

3/I/3A Vector Calculus

Sketch the curve $y^2 = x^2 + 1$. By finding a parametric representation, or otherwise, determine the points on the curve where the radius of curvature is least, and compute its value there.

[*Hint: you may use the fact that the radius of curvature of a parametrized curve $(x(t), y(t))$ is $(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2)^{3/2} / |\dot{x}\ddot{y} - \ddot{x}\dot{y}|$.]*

3/I/4A Vector Calculus

Suppose V is a region in \mathbb{R}^3 , bounded by a piecewise smooth closed surface S , and $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ is a scalar field satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \phi &= 0 && \text{in } V, \\ \text{and } \phi &= f(\mathbf{x}) && \text{on } S. \end{aligned}$$

Prove that ϕ is determined uniquely in V .

How does the situation change if the normal derivative of ϕ rather than ϕ itself is specified on S ?

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Let C be the closed curve that is the boundary of the triangle T with vertices at the points $(1, 0, 0)$, $(0, 1, 0)$ and $(0, 0, 1)$.

Specify a direction along C and consider the integral

$$\oint_C \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x},$$

where $\mathbf{A} = (z^2 - y^2, x^2 - z^2, y^2 - x^2)$. Explain why the contribution to the integral is the same from each edge of C , and evaluate the integral.

State Stokes's theorem and use it to evaluate the surface integral

$$\int_T (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot d\mathbf{S},$$

the components of the normal to T being positive.

Show that $d\mathbf{S}$ in the above surface integral can be written in the form $(1, 1, 1) dy dz$. Use this to verify your result by a direct calculation of the surface integral.

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Write down an expression for the Jacobian J of a transformation

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow (u, v, w).$$

Use it to show that

$$\int_D f \, dx \, dy \, dz = \int_\Delta \phi |J| \, du \, dv \, dw$$

where D is mapped one-to-one onto Δ , and

$$\phi(u, v, w) = f(x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)).$$

Find a transformation that maps the ellipsoid D ,

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} \leq 1,$$

onto a sphere. Hence evaluate

$$\int_D x^2 \, dx \, dy \, dz.$$

3/II/11A Vector Calculus

(a) Prove the identity

$$\nabla(\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{G}) = (\mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{G} + (\mathbf{G} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{F} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{G}) + \mathbf{G} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}).$$

(b) If \mathbf{E} is an irrotational vector field ($\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{0}$ everywhere), prove that there exists a scalar potential $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ such that $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi$.

Show that

$$(2xy^2ze^{-x^2z}, -2ye^{-x^2z}, x^2y^2e^{-x^2z})$$

is irrotational, and determine the corresponding potential ϕ .

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State the divergence theorem. By applying this to $f(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{k}$, where $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a scalar field in a closed region V in \mathbb{R}^3 bounded by a piecewise smooth surface S , and \mathbf{k} an arbitrary constant vector, show that

$$\int_V \nabla f \, dV = \int_S f \, d\mathbf{S}. \quad (*)$$

A vector field \mathbf{G} satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{G} &= \rho(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{with } \rho(\mathbf{x}) &= \begin{cases} \rho_0 & |\mathbf{x}| \leq a \\ 0 & |\mathbf{x}| > a. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

By applying the divergence theorem to $\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{G} \, dV$, prove Gauss's law

$$\int_S \mathbf{G} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}) \, dV,$$

where S is the piecewise smooth surface bounding the volume V .

Consider the spherically symmetric solution

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}) = G(r) \frac{\mathbf{x}}{r},$$

where $r = |\mathbf{x}|$. By using Gauss's law with S a sphere of radius r , centre $\mathbf{0}$, in the two cases $0 < r \leq a$ and $r > a$, show that

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \frac{\rho_0}{3} \mathbf{x} & r \leq a \\ \frac{\rho_0}{3} \left(\frac{a}{r}\right)^3 \mathbf{x} & r > a. \end{cases}$$

The scalar field $f(\mathbf{x})$ satisfies $\mathbf{G} = \nabla f$. Assuming that $f \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$, and that f is continuous at $r = a$, find f everywhere.

By using a symmetry argument, explain why (*) is clearly satisfied for this f if S is any sphere centred at the origin.