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16.3 deals only with line integrals where the integrand is a vector-valued function. It is used to make your computation easier. The idea is that the integrand,  $\mathbf{F}$ , is conservative. **(If it is not, this method will not work).** Since  $\mathbf{F}$  is conservative, it is the gradient of some potential  $F$ , i.e.  $\mathbf{F} = \nabla f$ . Then

$\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\mathbf{r} = f(b) - f(a)$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are the initial and final points of the curve. **Notice the answer is independent of path!**

Example. Compute  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  where  $\mathbf{F} = (x^2 + y^2) \mathbf{i} + 2xy \mathbf{j}$   $\mathbf{r} = t^3 \mathbf{i} + t^2 \mathbf{j}$   $0 \leq t \leq 2$

Step 1. Identify  $P$  and  $Q$ . Here.  $P = x^2 + y^2$   $Q = 2xy$

Step 2. Compute  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ . Here  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 2y$   $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = 2y$

Step 3. Are they equal? Here, yes.

Step 4. Find  $f$  such that  $f_x = x^2 + y^2$  and  $f_y = 2xy$ .

Integrating  $f_x$  with respect to  $x$  treating  $y$  as constant

$$f = \frac{x^3}{3} + xy^2 + g(y)$$

This is the answer if you know  $g$ ! Differentiate with respect to  $y$  treating  $x$  as a constant

$$f_y = 2xy + g'(y)$$

This must be equal to the other  $f_y = Q = 2xy$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 2xy + g'(y) &= 2xy \\ \Rightarrow g'(y) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

So  $f = \frac{x^3}{3} + xy^2$ .

Step 5. Check your answer. Here  $\nabla f = (x^2 + y^2) \mathbf{i} + 2xy \mathbf{j}$

Step 6. Find initial and final point or curve. Here since  $0 \leq t \leq 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r}(0) &= 0\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j} \\ \mathbf{r}(2) &= 8\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} \end{aligned}$$

Step 7. Evaluate  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = f(8, 4) - f(0, 0) = \frac{8^3}{3} + 8 \cdot 4^2 - \left( \frac{0^3}{3} + 0 \cdot 0^2 \right)$

Example: Compute  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$   $\mathbf{F} = e^y \mathbf{i} + xe^y \mathbf{j}$   $\mathbf{r} = \sin^3 t \mathbf{i} + \cos^2 t \mathbf{j}$   $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$

Step 1. Identify  $P$  and  $Q$ . Here  $P = e^y$ ,  $Q = xe^y$ .

Step 2. Compute  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ . Here  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = e^y$ ,  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = e^y$ .

Step 3. Are they equal? Here, yes.

Step 4. Find  $f$  such that  $f_x = e^y$   
 $f_y = xe^y$

Integrate  $f_x$  with respect to  $x$  treating  $y$  as constant.

$$f = xe^y + g(y)$$

This is the answer if you know  $g$ ! Differentiate with respect to  $y$  treating  $x$  as a constant

$$f_y = xe^y + g'(y)$$

This must be equal to the other  $f_y = xe^y$ ;  $xe^y + g'(y) = xe^y \Rightarrow g'(y) = 0$   $f = xe^y$ .

Step 5. Check your answer. Here  $\nabla f = e^y \mathbf{i} + xe^y \mathbf{j}$

Step 6. Find initial and final point on curve. Here since  $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$   $r(0) = 0\mathbf{i} + 1\mathbf{j}$   $r\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 1\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j}$ .

Step 7. Evaluate  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} - f(1,0) = f(0,1) = 1e^0 - 0e^1 = 1$ .

Evaluate  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$   $\mathbf{F} = 2xy\mathbf{i} + x^2\mathbf{j}$   $\mathbf{r} = t\mathbf{i} + t^2\mathbf{j}$   $0 \leq t \leq 1$

Step 1. Identify  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Step 2. Compute  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ .

Step 3. Are they equal? If yes, continue. If not, do as in previous section.

Step 4. Find  $f$  such that  $f_x = P$  and  $f_y = Q$ .

Step 5. Check your answer. i.e. Show  $\mathbf{F} = \nabla f$ .

Step 6. Find initial and final point on curve.

Step 7. Evaluate integral.

B.  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$      $\mathbf{F} = (e^y + x)\mathbf{i} + (xe^y + \sin y)\mathbf{j}$      $\mathbf{r} = e^t \cos t\mathbf{i} + e^{-t} \sin t\mathbf{j}$      $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

Step 1. Identify  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Step 2. Compute  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ .

Step 3. Are they equal? If yes, continue. If not do as in previous section.

Step 4. Find  $f$  such that  $f_x = P$  and  $f_y = Q$ .

Step 5. Check your answer. i.e. Show  $\mathbf{F} = \nabla f$ .

Step 6. Find initial and final point on curve.

Step 7. Evaluate integral.

C. Evaluate  $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$      $\mathbf{F} = y\mathbf{i} - x\mathbf{j}$      $\mathbf{r}(t) = \tan t\mathbf{i} + \sec^2 t\mathbf{j}$      $\frac{\pi}{6} \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{3}$

Step 1. Identify  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Step 2. Compute  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ .

Step 3. Are they equal? If yes, continue. If not do as in previous section.

Step 4. Find  $f$  such that  $f_x = P$  and  $f_y = Q$ .

Step 5. Check your answer. i.e. Show  $\mathbf{F} = \nabla f$ .

Step 6. Find initial and final point on curve.

Step 7. Evaluate integral.