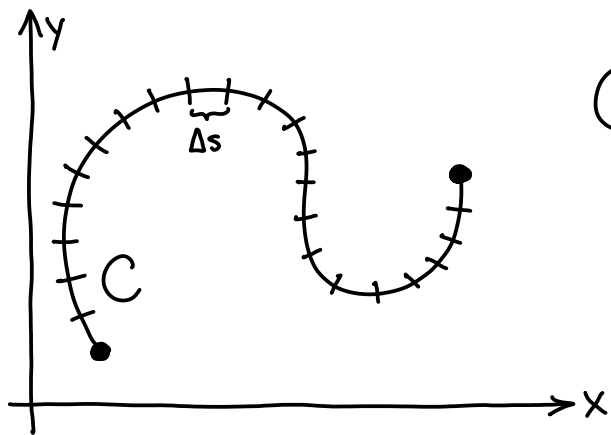


# 6.1 - Scalar and Vector Line Integrals

Until now, domains have been the same dimension as the space they lived in.

What if our domain is a curve (1-d) in the plane (2-d) or in space (3-d)?

What would a Riemann sum look like?



$$Q = \lim \sum_i \underbrace{f(x_i, y_i)}_{\text{density (Q/length)}} \Delta s$$

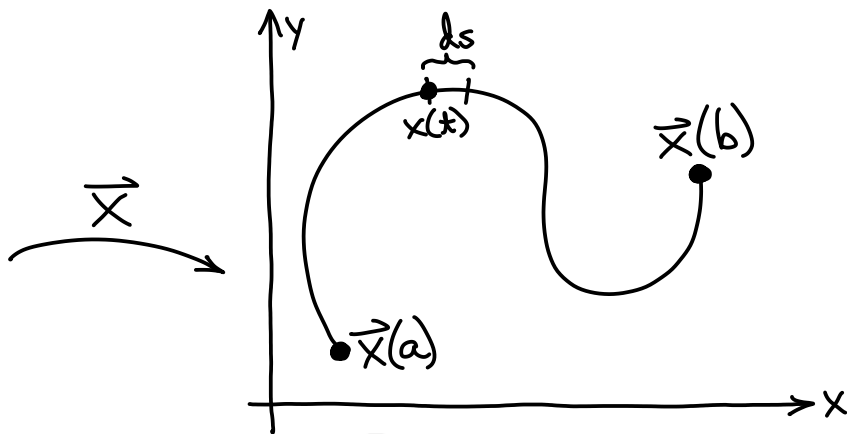
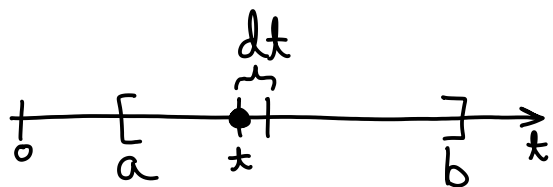
$$= \int_C f(x, y) ds \leftarrow \text{scalar line integral}$$

As with change of variables, these are undesirable domains.

So let's

- ① View as images
- ② Use pull back / stretching factor approach.

parametrization!



We already know that  $ds = \|\vec{x}'(t)\| dt$ , so

$$\int_C f(\vec{x}) ds = \int_a^b f(\vec{x}(t)) \|\vec{x}'(t)\| dt$$

stretching factor

Handy fact: The above integral is independent of the parametrization. So, use whatever is most convenient!

Ex: An irregular wire follows the curve parametrized by  $\vec{x}(t) = (t, t^2)$ ,  $t \in [0, 1]$ , with  $\delta = x + y$ .

Compute the mass, center of mass, and m.o.i. around the x-axis.

All of these are done with the same stretching factor!

$$\vec{x}' = (1, 2t), \quad \text{so s.f.} = \|\vec{x}'\| = \sqrt{1 + 4t^2}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \int_C dm \\ &= \int_C \delta ds \\ &= \int_0^1 (x+y) \|\vec{x}'\| dt \\ &= \int_0^1 (t+t^2) \sqrt{1+4t^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

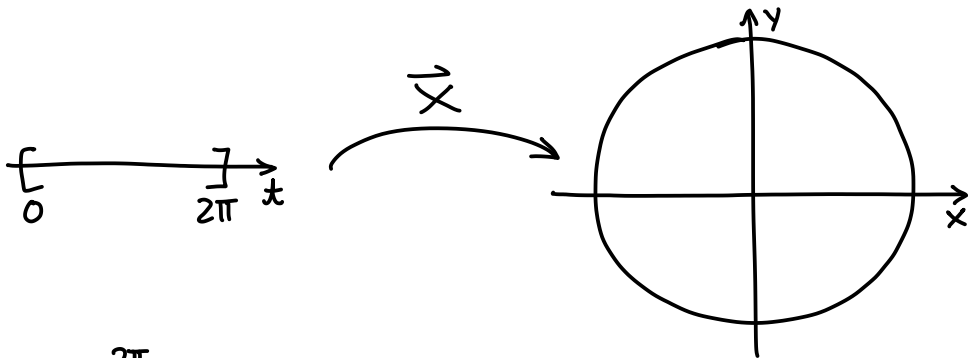
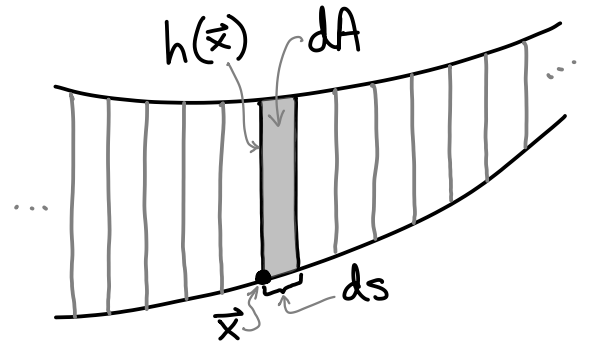
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x} &= \frac{1}{m} \int_C x dm \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \int_C x \delta ds \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \int_0^1 x(x+y) \|\vec{x}'\| dt \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \int_0^1 (t)(t+t^2) \sqrt{1+4t^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_C r^2 dm \\ &= \int_C r^2 \delta ds \\ &= \int_0^1 (y^2)(x+y) \|\vec{x}'\| dt \\ &= \int_0^1 (t^2)^2 (t+t^2) \sqrt{1+4t^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{y} &= \frac{1}{m} \int_C y dm \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \int_C y \delta ds \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \int_0^1 y(x+y) \|\vec{x}'\| dt \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \int_0^1 (t^2)(t+t^2) \sqrt{1+4t^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

Ex:) A fence sits on the unit circle, with  $h(x,y) = \frac{x+2}{5}$ .  
 What is the area of the fence?

$$A = \int_C dA = \int_C h(\vec{x}) ds$$



$$\begin{aligned} \vec{x}(t) &= (x, y) \\ &= (\cos t, \sin t) \\ \vec{x}'(t) &= (-\sin t, \cos t) \\ \|\vec{x}'(t)\| &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

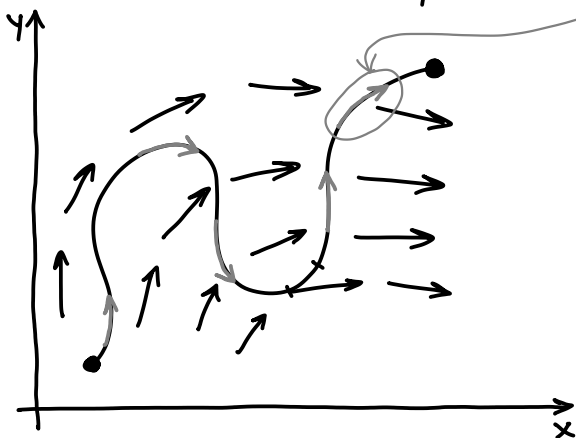
$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{x+2}{5}\right) \|\vec{x}'\| dt$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{\cos t + 2}{5}\right) (1) dt$$

Recall  $W = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$ . This assumes:

- ①  $\vec{F}$  is constant;
- ②  $d\vec{x}$  is over a straight path.

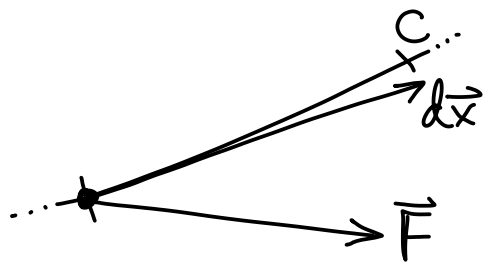
But what if they aren't?



Let  $C$  be an oriented curve

Chop the curve into pieces!

- ① Each piece is  $\sim$  straight
- ② Force is  $\sim$  constant

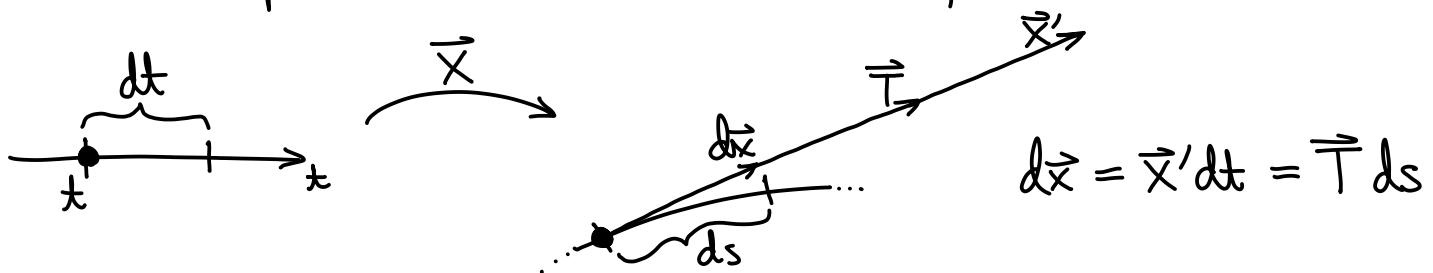


On each piece,  $dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$

Adding up over all pieces we get

$$W = \int_C dW = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} \leftarrow \text{vector line integral}$$

With a parametrization we already know



so we can rewrite as  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_a^b \vec{F} \cdot \vec{x}' dt = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$

Ex: Wind exerts force on you of  $\vec{F}(x,y) = (y, -x)$ . How much work does it take you to walk ccw along the top half of the unit circle?

① You push with force  $-\vec{F}$  to oppose the wind. So

$$W = \int_C (-\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{x}$$

② Parametrize the curve by

$$\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}, t \in [0, \pi] \Rightarrow \vec{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin t \\ \cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

③ Compute:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_0^\pi \vec{F} \cdot \vec{x}' dt \\ &= \int_0^\pi -\begin{pmatrix} y \\ -x \end{pmatrix} \cdot \vec{x}' dt \\ &= \int_0^\pi -\begin{pmatrix} \sin t \\ -\cos t \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -\sin t \\ \cos t \end{pmatrix} dt = \int_0^\pi 1 dt = \pi \end{aligned}$$

Handy fact:  $\int_a^b \vec{F} \cdot \vec{x}' dt$  gives the same value as long as  $\vec{x}(t)$  has the correct orientation. But...

Key point:

The parametrization has to go the same direction as the orientation!

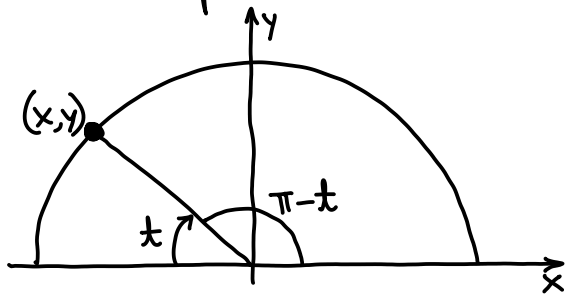
Otherwise your  $d\vec{x}$  is backwards, a.k.a. off by  $\cdot(-1)$ !

Def: Given an oriented curve  $C$  from  $\vec{a}$  to  $\vec{b}$ , the curve  $C^-$  moves along the same path with the opposite orientation, from  $\vec{b}$  to  $\vec{a}$ .

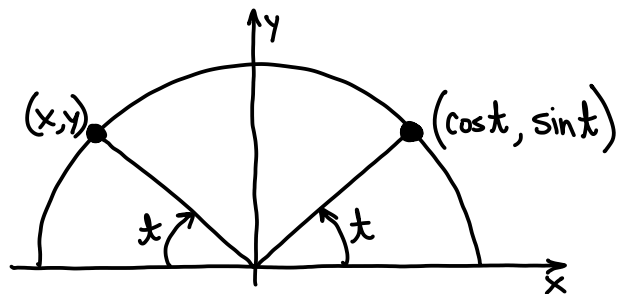
Thm:  $\int_{C^-} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = -\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$

So if you parametrize  $C$  the wrong way, your result will be wrong by  $\cdot(-1)$ .

Ex: Same as previous, what if walking cw?  
How to parametrize?



$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\pi-t) \\ \sin(\pi-t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = R \begin{pmatrix} \cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

Then 
$$W = \int_{C_2} (-\vec{F}) \cdot d\vec{x} = \dots = -\pi$$

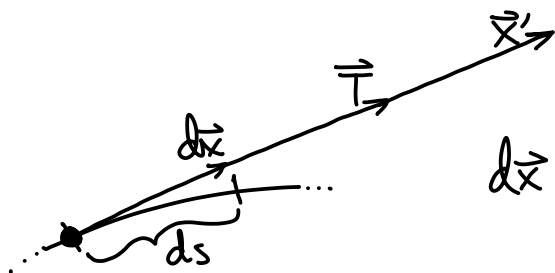
Alt: This is the same curve as previous with the opposite orientation. So

$$\int_{C_2} = \int_{C^-} = -\int_C = -\pi$$

We have seen that if  $\vec{F}$  represents forces, then  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  represents work.

What if  $\vec{F}$  represents a fluid flow (as velocity)?

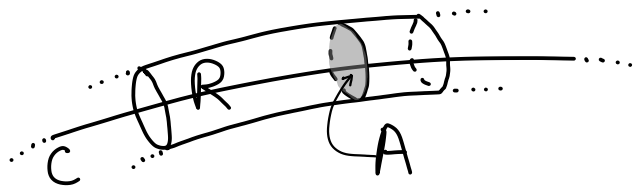
Recall:



$$d\vec{x} = \vec{x}' dt = \vec{T} ds$$

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_a^b \vec{F} \cdot \vec{x}' dt = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$$

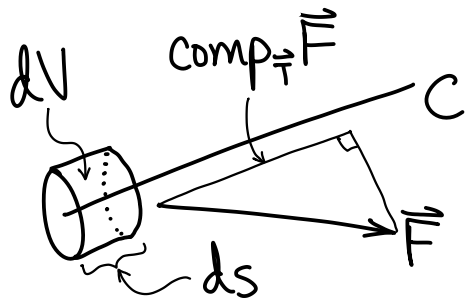
Consider a thin region  $R$  around  $C$ , with section area  $A$ .



What is the total rate  $Q$  that the fluid in  $R$  is flowing along  $C$ ?

$$dQ = (\text{comp}_{\vec{T}} \vec{F}) dV$$

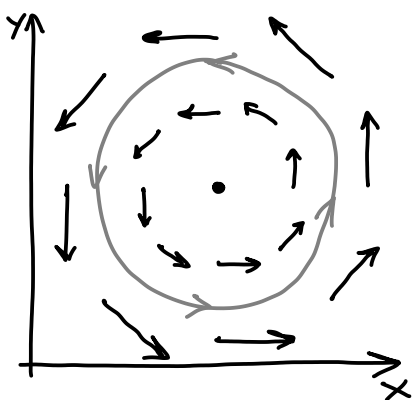
$$= (\vec{F} \cdot \vec{T})(A ds)$$



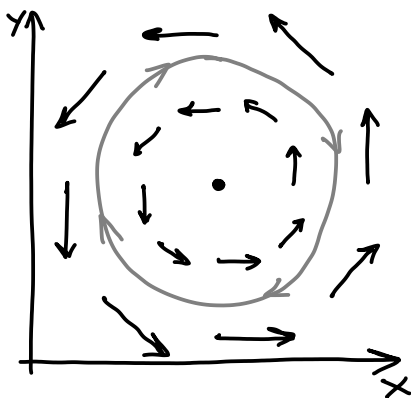
$$Q = \int_C dQ = A \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = A \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$$

So  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  represents the rate (per section area) of fluid flowing along  $C$ .

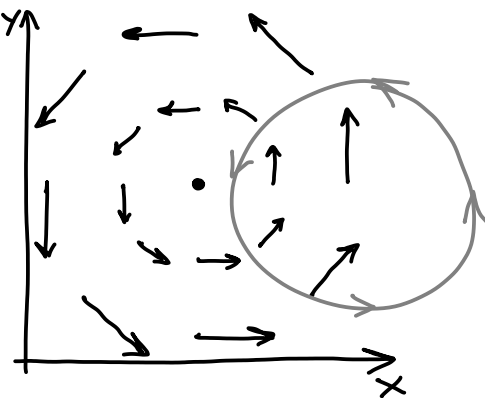
For a closed curve (starts/ends at same point),  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  is called the circulation ( $\sigma$ ) of  $\vec{F}$  along  $C$ .



$$\sigma > 0$$



$$\sigma < 0$$



$$\sigma = ?$$

For small objects, circulation suggests how the fluid would rotate it.

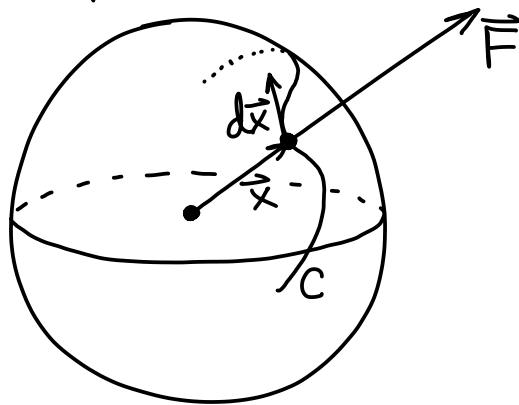
Look out for fortunate geometry!

Ex)  $C$  is parametrized by  $\rho=1$ ,  $\phi = t \sin t$ ,  $\theta = t^2 e^t$  for  $t \in [0, 1]$ , and  $\vec{F} = x^2 y \vec{x}$ . Compute  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$ .

Notice:

- $\vec{x}$  is on sphere  $\rho=1$ , so  $d\vec{x}$  is always  $\parallel$  to sphere
- $\vec{F} \parallel \vec{x}$  is always  $\perp$  to sphere

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = 0 \Rightarrow \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = 0.$$



## Coordinate line integrals

Recall  $d\vec{x} = \vec{x}' dt = \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{pmatrix} dt$

It is reasonable to rewrite this as

$$= \begin{pmatrix} x' dt \\ y' dt \\ z' dt \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \\ dz \end{pmatrix}$$

With  $\vec{F} = (P, Q, R)$  then, we write

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_C \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \\ R \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \\ dz \end{pmatrix} = \int_C P dx + Q dy + R dz$$

This notation:

- Relates to "differential forms" (Ch. 8).

Natural & powerful — but beyond this course!

- In common use.



## Symmetry theorems

For scalar line integrals, it's just what you would expect:

Thm: If ①  $f$  is odd over  $L$   
②  $C$  is symmetric over  $L$

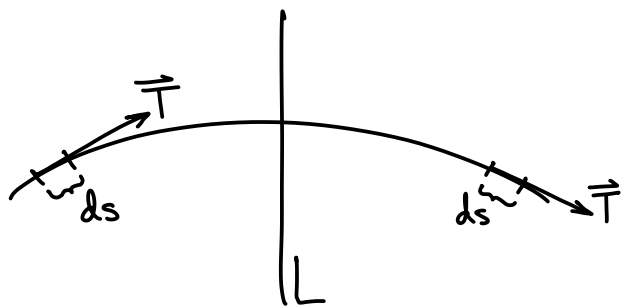
$$\text{then } \int_C f \, ds = 0$$

NB— Both conditions must hold!  
Must use the same line for each!

But for vector line integrals  
odd symmetry does not work!

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds,$$

(On corresponding pieces  
of curve, the  $ds$ 's are  
equal — but the  $\vec{T}$ 's  
are neither equal nor opposite...)

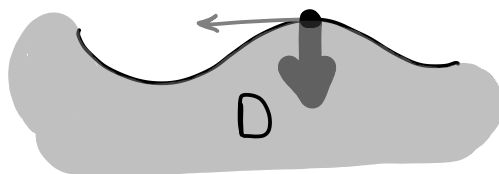
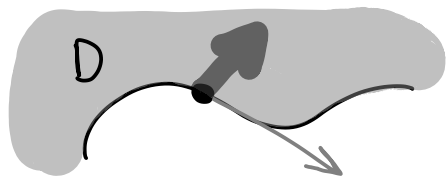


## 6.2 - Green's Theorem

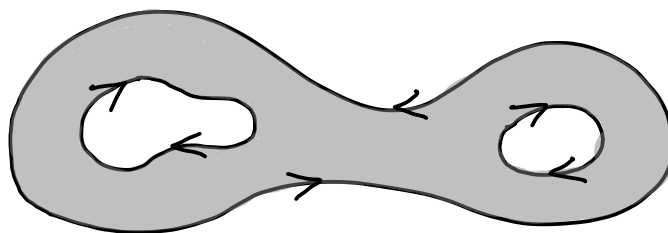
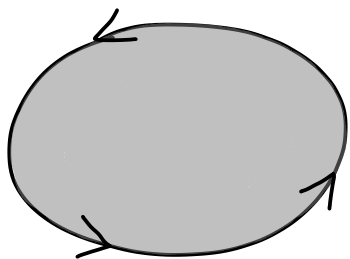
### Boundary

We now view boundary as an oriented thing.

The boundary curve  $\partial D$  of a region  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is oriented such that  $D$  is "on the left".



This means that on outside boundary curves the orientation of  $\partial D$  is ccw — but not for inside!



### Accumulation

Say  $D$  is divided into pieces  $D_1, D_2$ .



The mass in  $D$  is the sum of the masses in  $D_1, D_2$ .  
We say mass "accumulates over  $D$ ", or is an "accumulating quantity".

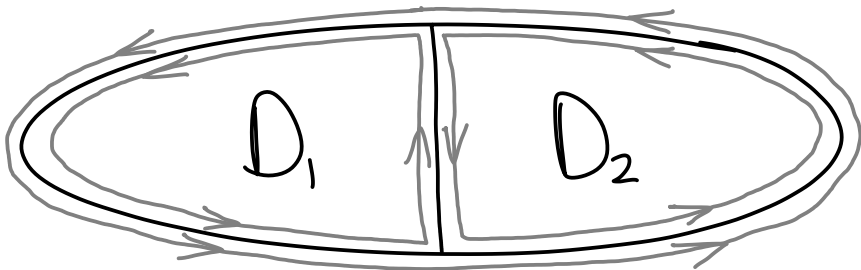
Perimeter does not accumulate over areas!

Tempting to say accumulation is a feature of physical/concrete quantities, not geometric/algebraic ones.

But — given a vector field  $\vec{F}$  on  $D$ ,

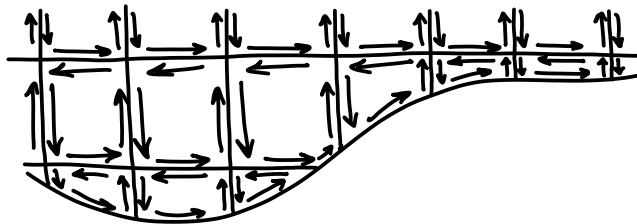
boundary circulation accumulates!

$\int_{\partial D_1}$ ,  $\int_{\partial D_2}$  both go over shared edge, but with opposite orientations which then cancel!

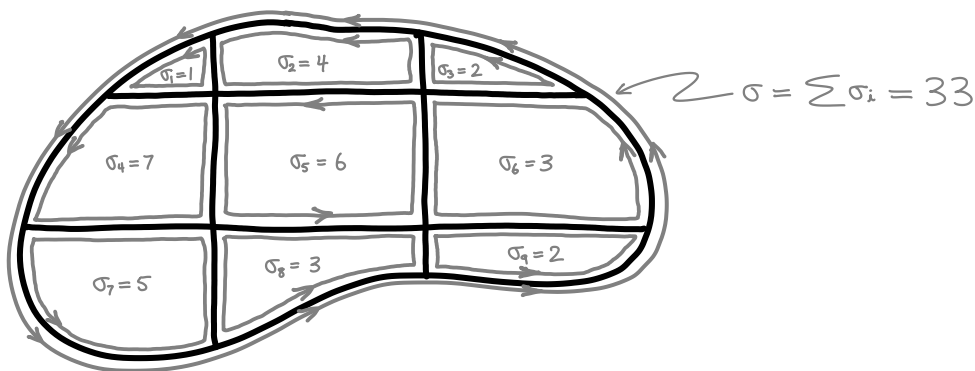


So  $\int_{\partial D_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} + \int_{\partial D_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_{\partial D} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$

Doesn't matter how many pieces!



This accumulation feature allows us a way of thinking of boundary circulation as distributed over the interior, with pieces having locations in the interior.



So, "boundary circulation" behaves like a physical "stuff"!

# Density

For mass in a differential area, we have "mass density":

$$\square \leftarrow dm = \left( \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{area}} \right) \cdot dA$$

Similarly, there is a "circulation density"!

$$\square \leftarrow d\sigma = \left( \frac{\text{bdry. circ.}}{\text{area}} \right) \cdot dA$$

For  $\vec{F} = (P, Q)$ , circulation density =  $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$   
(= "Green's operator",  $\text{grn } \vec{F}$ ,  $\text{rot } \vec{F}$ ,  $\text{curl } \vec{F}$ ,  $(\nabla \times \vec{F}) \cdot \vec{k}$ )

Now consider a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\vec{F} = (P, Q)$ :

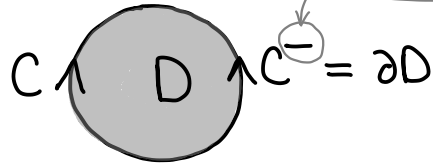
$$\int_{\partial D} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \sigma = \iint_D d\sigma = \iint_D (\text{grn } \vec{F}) dA$$

(circulation)      (accumulation)      (density)

Green's Theorem

Ex:1)  $C$  is the clockwise unit circle,  $\vec{F} = (e^x + y, \tan y + 3x)$ .  
 Compute  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$ .

Note  $C^- = \partial D$  where  $D$  is the unit disk. Then

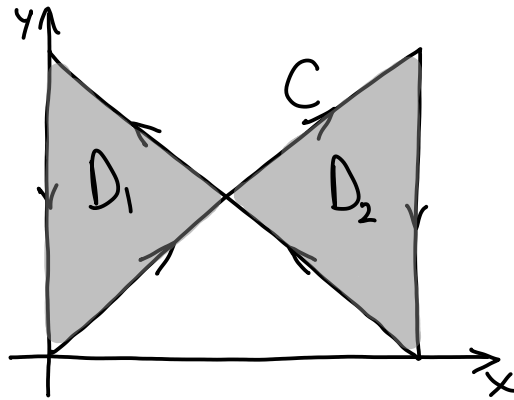


Same curve, but with the opposite orientation

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} &= -\int_{C^-} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = -\int_{\partial D} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = -\iint_D \operatorname{grn} \vec{F} \, dA \\ &= -\iint_D (3-1) \, dA = -2\pi \end{aligned}$$

Ex:1)  $C$  is made up of line segments from  $(0,0)$  to  $(2,2)$  to  $(2,0)$  to  $(0,2)$  to  $(0,0)$ , and  $\vec{F} = (3x-4y, 5x-7y)$ .  
 Compute  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$ .

$$C = \partial D_1 + (\partial D_2)^-$$



Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} &= \int_{\partial D_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} + \int_{(\partial D_2)^-} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} \\ &= \int_{\partial D_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} - \int_{\partial D_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} \\ &= \iint_{D_1} \operatorname{grn} \vec{F} \, dA - \iint_{D_2} \operatorname{grn} \vec{F} \, dA \\ &= \iint_{D_1} 9 \, dA - \iint_{D_2} 9 \, dA \\ &= 9(\text{area of } D_1) - 9(\text{area of } D_2) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

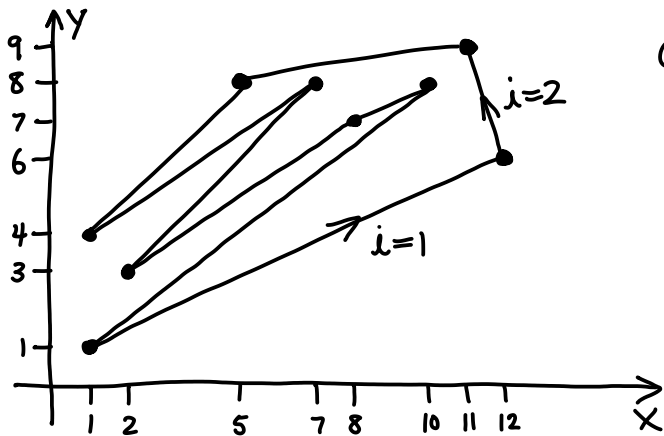
## Area

$$\int_{\partial D} x \, dy = \int_{\partial D} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x \end{pmatrix} \cdot d\vec{x} = \iint_D \text{grad} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x \end{pmatrix} dA = \iint_D 1 \, dA = \text{area}(D).$$

And for straight line segments ( $L$ , from  $(x_1, y_1)$  to  $(x_2, y_2)$ ), you can check that

$$\int_L x \, dy = \bar{x} \Delta y \quad \left( = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \right) (y_2 - y_1) \right)$$

Ex: Compute the area of the polygon below.



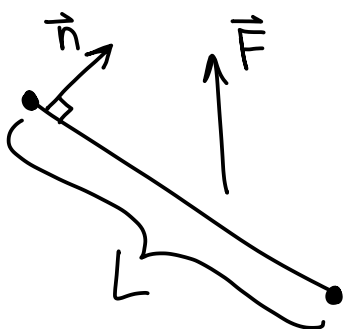
$$\text{area} = \int_{\partial D} x \, dy = \sum_i \int_{L_i} x \, dy$$

$i$	$\bar{x}$	$\Delta y$	$\bar{x} \Delta y = \int_{L_i} x \, dy$
1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	$6\frac{5}{2}$
2	$2\frac{3}{2}$	3	$6\frac{9}{2}$
3	8	-1	-8
4	3	-4	-12
5	4	4	16
6	$4\frac{1}{2}$	-5	$-4\frac{5}{2}$
7	5	4	20
8	9	1	9
9	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-7	$-7\frac{1}{2}$

}  $\Sigma = \text{area} = 19$

## Flux through a curve

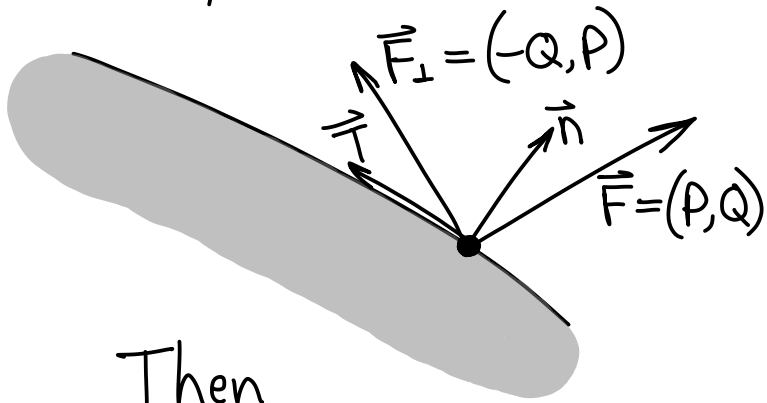
Similar to flux through a surface:



$$\Phi = (\vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}) L$$

Represents flow rate of fluid through  $L$  (in  $\vec{n}$  direction).

"Boundary flux" on  $D$  is flow rate outward across  $\partial D$ .



$\vec{F}, \vec{n}$  are  $90^\circ$  rotations of  $\vec{F}_\perp, \vec{T}$  (resp.). So

$$\vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} = \vec{F}_\perp \cdot \vec{T}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \int_{\partial D} d\Phi \\ &= \int_{\partial D} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} \, ds \\ &= \int_{\partial D} \vec{F}_\perp \cdot \vec{T} \, ds \\ &= \int_{\partial D} \vec{F}_\perp \cdot d\vec{x} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} &= \iint_D \operatorname{grn}(\vec{F}_\perp) \, dA \\ &= \iint_D \frac{\partial(P)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial(-Q)}{\partial y} \, dA \\ &= \iint_D \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} \right) \, dA \\ &= \iint_D \nabla \cdot \vec{F} \, dA \end{aligned}$$

2-d divergence theorem

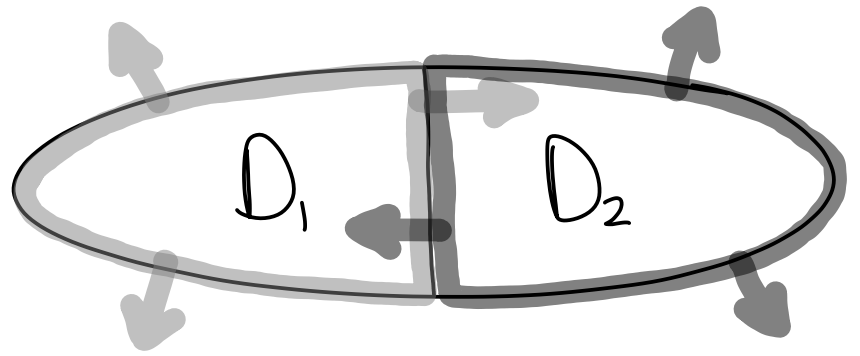
Ex: Compute the flux  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} \, ds$  of  $\vec{F} = (2x + e^y, \csc x - 5y)$  outward through the unit circle  $C$ .

$C$  is  $\partial D$  where  $D$  is the unit disk. So

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} \, ds = \Phi = \iint_D \nabla \cdot \vec{F} \, dA = \iint_D (2 - 5) \, dA = -3(\text{area}) = -3\pi$$

Boundary flux accumulates too!

$\int_{\partial D_1}$ ,  $\int_{\partial D_2}$  both go over shared edge, but with opposite orientations which then cancel!



Alt: on shared edge, any fluid flowing out of  $D_1$  is also flowing into  $D_2$ !

$$\text{So } \int_{\partial D_1} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds + \int_{\partial D_2} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \int_{\partial D} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

So we have an interpretation as a density as well.

$$m = \iint_D dm = \iint_D \rho dA \quad \text{mass density}$$

$$\sigma = \iint_D d\sigma = \iint_D \text{curl} \vec{F} dA \quad \text{circulation density}$$

$$\Phi = \iint_D d\Phi = \iint_D \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA \quad \text{flux density}$$

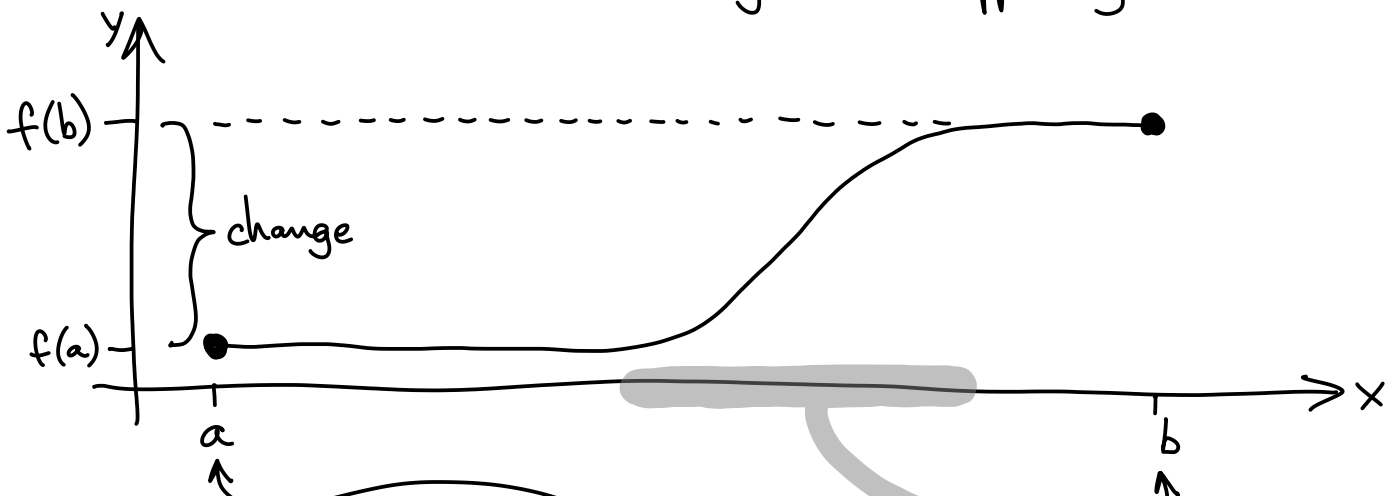


# Comparison to F.T.C.

F.T.C. can also be viewed in terms of accumulation/density, viewing  $f(x_2) - f(x_1)$  as a quantity called "change" ( $= \Delta$ ).  
On  $I = [a, b]$  then,

change accumulates over  $I$   $\Delta \equiv \int_I d\Delta = \int_I f' dx$  change/size = change density

The derivative  $f'$  is something we can see in a picture, and we know it tells how much change is happening where.

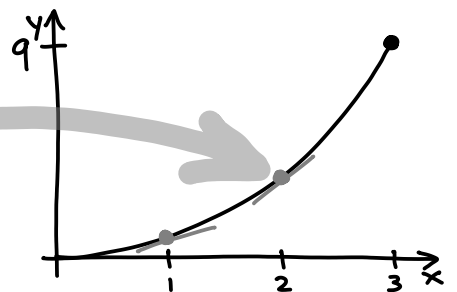


The accumulation of change is measured here... ... but it actually happens here.

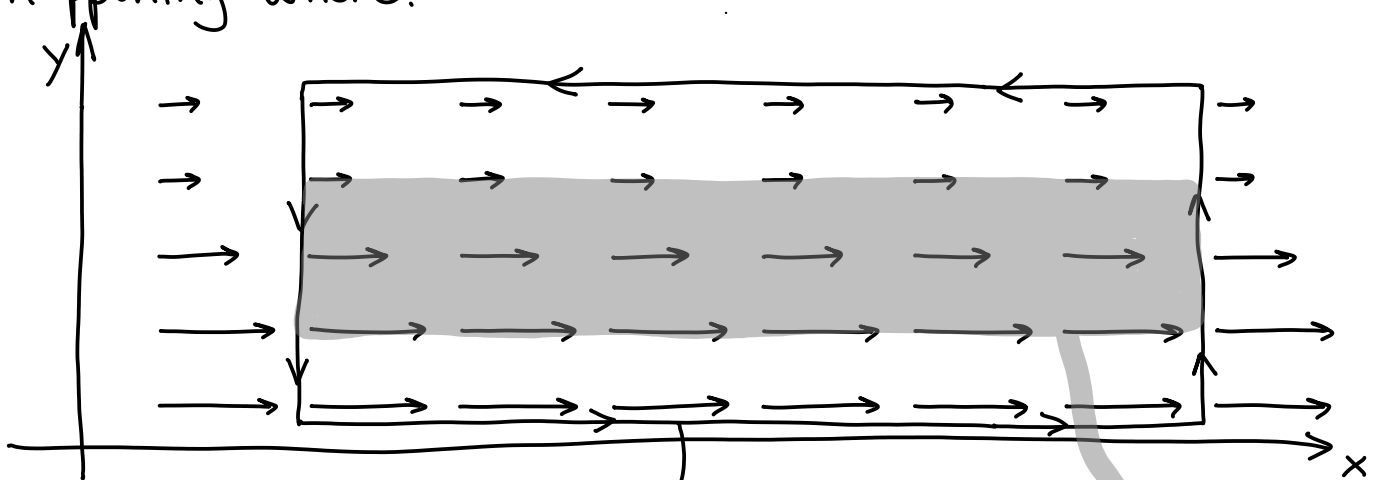
Ex:  $f(x) = x^2$  changes by 9 on  $[0, 3]$ . Is more of this change happening at  $x=1$  or at  $x=2$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 2x \\ f'(1) &= 2 \\ f'(2) &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

$f' =$  change density is greater at  $x=2$

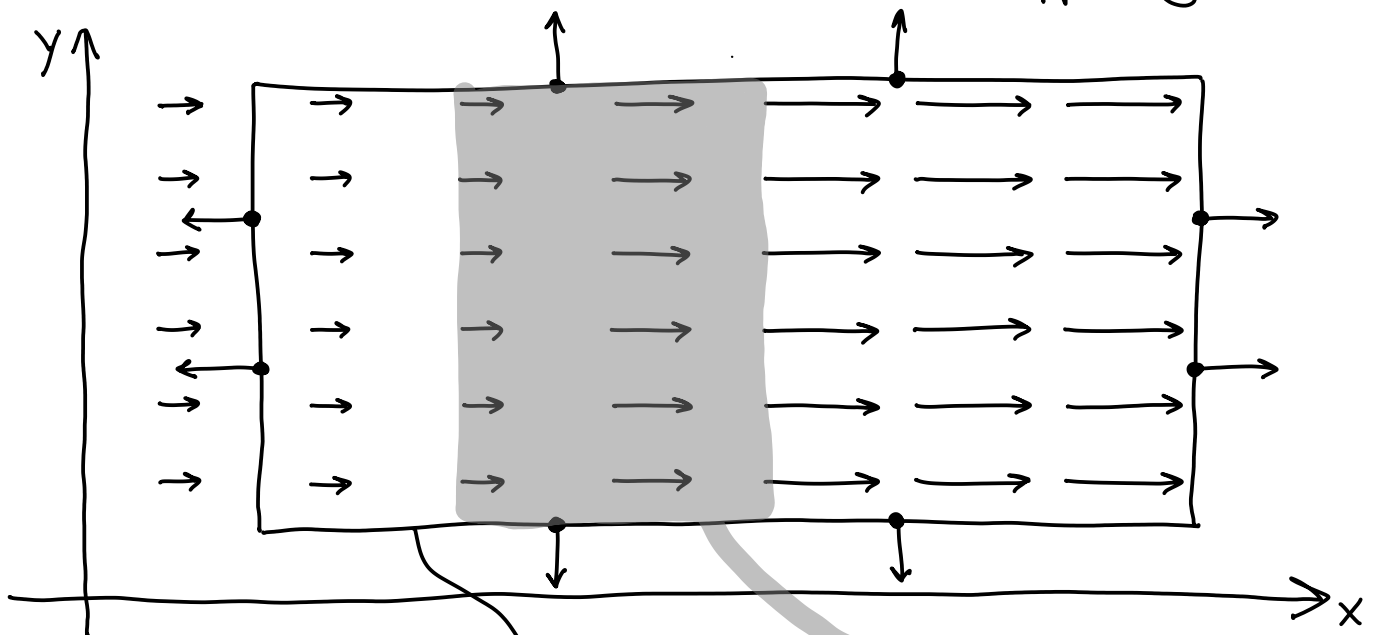


Analogously,  $\text{grn } \vec{F}$  tells us how much circulation is happening where.



The accumulation of circulation is measured here ... ... but it actually happens here.

And,  $\nabla \cdot \vec{F}$  tells us how much flux is happening where.



The accumulation of flux is measured here ... ... but it actually happens here.

Ex:  $\vec{F} = (2x^2 - 3y^2, 4x + 5y)$  generates a circulation around, and a flux through, the boundary of  $[0, 5] \times [1, 6]$ .  
For each of these, is more happening at  $(3, 3)$  or  $(2, 4)$ ?

For circulation:  $\text{grn } \vec{F} = 4 + 6y$   
 $\text{grn } \vec{F}(3, 3) = 22$   
 $\text{grn } \vec{F}(2, 4) = 28$

$\text{grn } \vec{F} = \text{circ. dens.}$   
is greater at  $(2, 4)$ .

For flux:  $\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = 4x + 5$   
 $\nabla \cdot \vec{F}(3, 3) = 17$   
 $\nabla \cdot \vec{F}(2, 4) = 13$

$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \text{flux density}$   
is greater at  $(3, 3)$ .

## 6.3 - Conservative Vector Fields

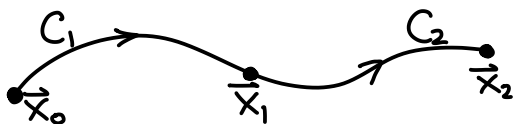
"conservative"

Thm 1: (Fundamental Theorem of Line Integrals) If  $\vec{F} = \nabla f$  is continuous and  $C$  starts at  $A$  and ends at  $B$ , then

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = f(B) - f(A)$$

This can be seen in terms of accumulation/density!

① The accumulating quantity is "change" ( $\Delta$ ), defined on a path  $P$  from  $\vec{q}$  to  $\vec{r}$  as  $\Delta = f(\vec{r}) - f(\vec{q})$ .



$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_1 + \Delta_2 &= (f(x_1) - f(x_0)) + (f(x_2) - f(x_1)) \\ &= (f(x_2) - f(x_0)) = \Delta \end{aligned}$$

Ex 1: Altitude change accumulates along a road.

② The related density is  $(\nabla f \cdot \vec{T})$ .



$$d\Delta = \nabla f \cdot d\vec{x} = (\nabla f \cdot \vec{T}) ds$$

Alt: Can view  $\nabla f$  as the "oriented density", as it relates  $d\Delta$  to the "oriented size"  $d\vec{x}$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta &= \int_C d\Delta = \int_C (\nabla f \cdot \vec{T}) ds && \text{change density} \\ &= \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{x} && \text{oriented change density} \end{aligned}$$

Ex:  $\vec{F} = (2xy^2, 2x^2y)$ ,  $C = \{(cost, sint) \mid t \in [0, \pi]\}$ .  
Compute  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$ .

① Note  $\vec{F} = \nabla(x^2y^2)$ .

②  $C$  starts at  $A = (1, 0)$  and ends at  $B = (-1, 0)$ .

Then by F.T.L.I. we have

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = f(B) - f(A) = 0 - 0 = 0$$

### Path independence

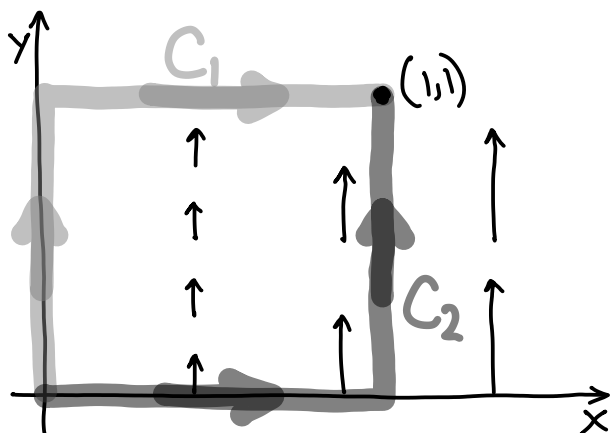
Most line integrals  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  depend heavily on  $C$ . Amazingly though, for some vector fields  $\vec{F}$ , only the endpoints matter!

Def:  $\vec{F}$  "has path independent line integrals" (or, "is path independent") if

$$(C_1, C_2 \text{ share start/end points}) \Rightarrow \left( \int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} \right)$$

NB - Most vector fields do not have this property!

Ex:  $\vec{F} = (0, x)$ ,  $C_1, C_2$  as pictured from  $(0,0)$  to  $(1,1)$ .

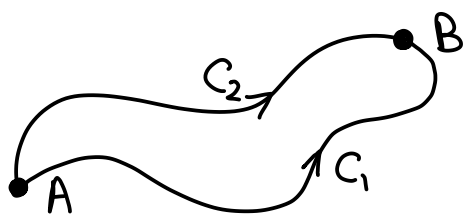


$C_1, C_2$  start/end at same points.

$\int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  is clearly  $= 0$ .

$\int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  is clearly  $> 0$ .

But the F.T.L.I. shows the every (continuous) gradient field  $\vec{F} = \nabla f$  is path independent!



$$\int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = f(B) - f(A) = \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$$

It is also true that every (continuous) path independent vector field is a gradient.

Sketch of proof: Can define  $f(\vec{x}) = \int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$  (use any path!) then check directly that  $\nabla f = \vec{F}$ .

Alternative formulation:

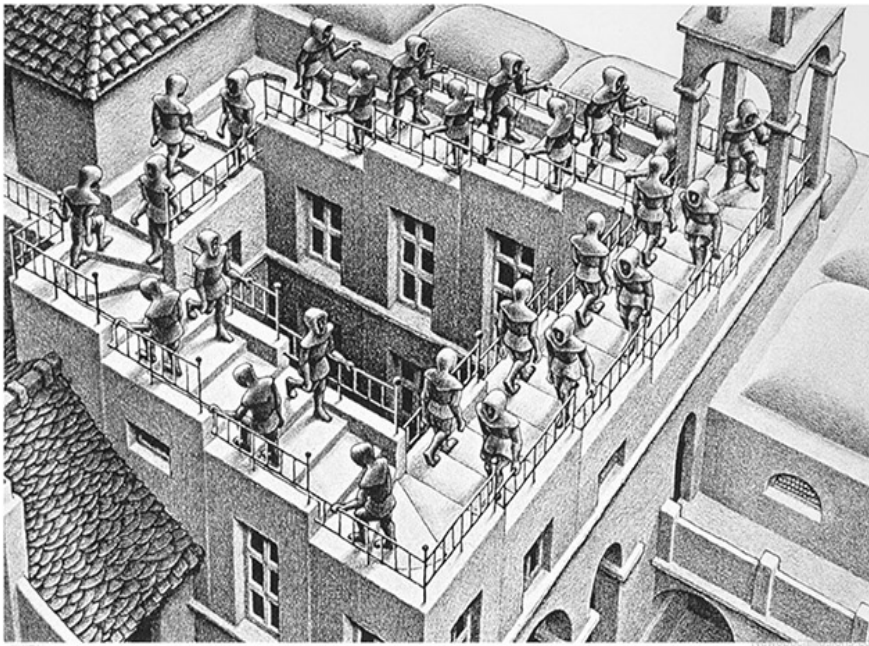


$$\int_{C_1} = \int_{C_2} \iff \int_{C_1} - \int_{C_2} = 0 \iff \int_C = 0$$

$$(\vec{F} \text{ is p.i.}) \iff \left( \text{for all closed curves, } \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = 0 \right)$$

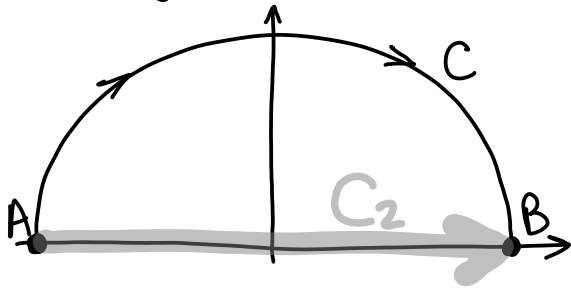
Ex: "Steepness" =  $\vec{F} = \nabla h$  is a gradient

$$\iff \vec{F} \text{ is p.i.} \iff \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = 0 \iff \text{Escher stairs are impossible!}$$



(P.i. is more useful conceptually than computationally, since  $(F \text{ is p.i.}) \Rightarrow (F = \nabla f) \Rightarrow (\text{use F.T.L.I.})$ . But sometimes...

Ex:)  $\vec{F} = (2xy, x^2)$  p.i.,  $C$  is top half of unit circle cwise. Find  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}$ .



$\vec{F}$  is given p.i., so we can choose to use  $C_2$  instead.

$$\vec{x}(t) = (t, 0)$$

$$\int_C = \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = \int_{C_2} \begin{pmatrix} 2xy \\ x^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \int_{C_2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

### A local test

Thm:) For a  $(C^1)$  vector field  $\vec{F}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $(\vec{F} = \nabla f) \iff (\text{irrotational}) \iff (\text{curl } \vec{F} = 0)$

Pf:)  $\iff (\vec{F} \text{ p.i.}) \iff (\text{closed } \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = 0) \iff (\int_D \text{curl } \vec{F} \, dA = 0) \iff$   
↑  
 Green's Theorem

Thm:) For a  $(C^1)$  vector field  $\vec{F}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $(\vec{F} = \nabla f) \iff (\nabla \times \vec{F} = \vec{0})$

Pf:) Similar, but uses a theorem we have not covered yet.



Ex:) Is  $\vec{F} = (y+3, yz^2+x, yz^2+y)$  a gradient?

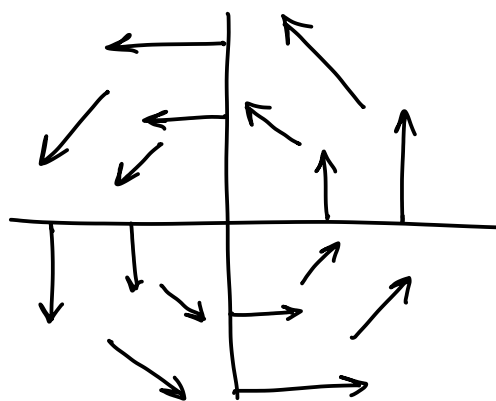
$$\nabla \times \vec{F} = ((z^2+1) - (2yz), \dots, \dots)$$

This already tells us  $\nabla \times \vec{F} \neq \vec{0}$ , so no.

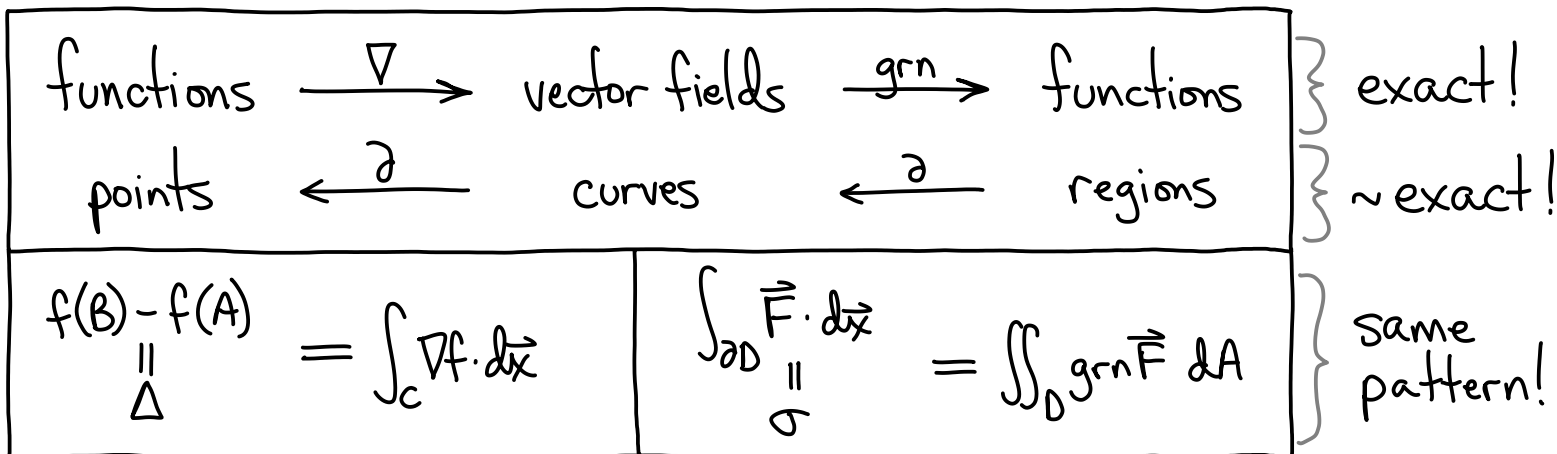
Ex:) Is  $\vec{F} = (-y, x)$  a gradient?

$$\text{grn } \vec{F} = \frac{\partial(x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial(-y)}{\partial y} = 2 \neq 0, \text{ so } \underline{\text{no}}.$$

(Alt: If it were, then all of these vectors would be pointing uphill! Escher stairs!)



### Strategic diagram for $\mathbb{R}^2$



- Organizes objects, relationships, properties  
(gradient (conservative) = path independent = irrotational)
- Suggests things to try, what you need!

Ex) Considering  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} \dots$

① Diagram asks if  $\vec{F} = \nabla f$  — and suggests computing  $\text{gr} \nabla \vec{F}$  to decide.

② Diagram asks if  $C = \partial D$  — and suggests looking at bdry points to decide.

We will soon see a similar diagram for  $\mathbb{R}^3$ !

### Finding antigradients

If  $\vec{F} = \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \\ R \end{pmatrix}$  is  $\nabla f = \begin{pmatrix} \partial f / \partial x \\ \partial f / \partial y \\ \partial f / \partial z \end{pmatrix}$ , then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = P$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = Q$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = R$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$f \begin{cases} \equiv \int P dx + c_1(y,z) \\ \equiv \int Q dy + c_2(x,z) \\ \equiv \int R dz + c_3(x,y) \end{cases}$$

Need to find  $f$  that satisfies all 3 of these requirements!

Ex:) Find an antigradient for  $\vec{F} = (2xy + z, x^2 - z^2, x - 2yz)$ .  
(Note that  $\nabla \times \vec{F} = \vec{0}$ , so we expect such an  $f$  to exist.)

$$\int P dx = \int (2xy + z) dx = x^2y + xz + C_1(y, z)$$

$$\int Q dy = \int (x^2 - z^2) dy = x^2y - yz^2 + C_2(x, z)$$

$$\int R dz = \int (x - 2yz) dz = xz - yz^2 + C_3(x, y)$$

Is there an  $f$  equal to all of these? Yes!

$$f = x^2y + xz - yz^2$$

Ex:) Will the above method find an antigradient for  $\vec{F} = (-y, x)$ ? (Note  $\text{curl } \vec{F} \neq 0$ , so we expect such an  $\vec{F}$  should not exist.)

$$\int P dx = \int (-y) dx = -xy + C_1(y)$$

$$\int Q dy = \int (x) dy = xy + C_2(x)$$

Is there an  $f$  equal to all of these? No!