

Conservative Vector Fields If the vector field \vec{F} is the gradient of a scalar value function f , then \vec{F} is called a conservative vector field. $\boxed{\vec{F} = \nabla f}$

Ex If $\vec{F} = (2x, 2y) = 2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j}$ then show that the vector field \vec{F} is conservative.

Let $f = x^2 + y^2$ then —

$$\nabla f = 1 \cdot 2x + \hat{j} \cdot 2y = \vec{F}$$

Therefore \vec{F} is conservative

Fundamental Theorem of Line Integrals

Let $\vec{F} = \nabla f$ be a conservative vector field along a curve C from A to B . Then —

$$\int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = f(B) - f(A)$$

Q. Let $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = (2xyz + e^{x+z}, x^2z, x^2y + e^{x+z})$ and let C be a path from $(1, 2, 0)$ to $(1, 0, 5)$. Compute $\rightarrow \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$

$$\text{Let } f = x^2yz + e^{x+z}$$

$$\text{Now } \nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\nabla f = (2xyz + e^{x+z}, x^2z, x^2y + e^{x+z})$$

$$\nabla f = \vec{F}$$

Here f is the scalar potential of \vec{F} .

By Fundamental Theorem of Line Integral —

$$\int_A^B \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = f(B) - f(A)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} &= f(B) - f(A) \\ &= f(1, 0, 5) - f(1, 2, 0) \\ &= e^6 - e \quad \underline{\text{Ans}} \end{aligned}$$

Q. Evaluate $\int_1^2 x^3 dx$ by F.T.I.

$$\vec{F} = x^3$$

$$f = \frac{x^4}{4}$$

$$\vec{F} = \nabla f$$

By Fundamental Theorem of Line Integral -

$$\int_A^B \vec{F} d\vec{x} = f(B) - f(A)$$

$$\int_1^2 x^3 dx = f(2) - f(1)$$
$$= \frac{2^4}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$$

$$= \frac{15}{4} \quad \underline{\text{Ans}}$$