

ch 7.3 $X_H = J \nabla H$ Conservative Fields

∇V is direction of most rapid increase of V 1/17/2016 (7.3.1)
 Thus $-\nabla V$ direction of greatest decrease

We call a vf Conservative if it comes from a potential fcn ('vf generating fcn') $\vec{F} = \nabla f$

2.243 Classic Example

Note: Potential fcn are very useful
 McCauley CMTFAICD p.37
 Uses $F = -\nabla V$ to derive the most general invariant of Newton $m\ddot{\sigma} = F(\sigma)$

(i) Given \vec{F} and a curve $\sigma: [a,b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ that is the trajectory of a particle of mass m moving according to Newton's law

$m \ddot{\sigma}(t) = \vec{F}(\sigma(t))$

(ii) F comes from a potential fcn V

$F = -\nabla V$

physicists like this neg sign - particle moves toward decreasing potential

$\frac{1}{2} m \|\dot{\sigma}\|^2 + V(\sigma(t)) = \text{Const}$
 KE PE total Energy
Conservation of Energy

pf Note $\|\sigma'\|^2 = \sigma' \cdot \sigma'$

$\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} m \sigma' \cdot \sigma' + V(\sigma(t)) \right] = \frac{1}{2} m \sigma'' \cdot \sigma' + \frac{1}{2} m \sigma' \cdot \sigma'' + DV_{\sigma(t)}(\sigma'(t))$
 $= m \sigma'' \cdot \sigma' + \nabla V_{\sigma(t)} \cdot \sigma'(t)$
 $= F(\sigma'(t)) \cdot \sigma' - F(\sigma(t)) \cdot \sigma'(t) = 0$

Really M&T are proving it for a rectangular box $(a,b) \times (c,d) \times (e,f)$

Really \mathcal{U} being simply conn (Every loop is contractible in \mathcal{U} to a pt)

Can be an open convex subset \mathcal{U} Rudin POMA

Thus $\frac{1}{2} m \sigma' \cdot \sigma' + V(\sigma(t)) = C$

See my Fowles AM ch 7 write up sheets where I showed the total mechanical energy of a system of N particles can only be changed by an external force doing work on the system. actually I think only no limit pts

BIG THM 7

$F: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ C^1 smooth vf (F may have finitely many singularities)

TFAE (i) For any clsd, \mathcal{C}^k curve σ $\int_{\sigma} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$

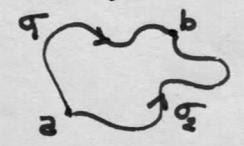
(ii) Indep of Path: For any 2 curves σ_1, σ_2 connecting endpts a, b

$\int_{\sigma_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_{\sigma_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$

(iii) \exists potential fcn (vf generating fcn)

$F = \nabla f$

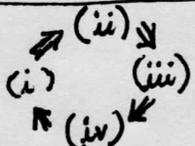
(iv) irrotational $\nabla \times F = 0$



Poincaré Lemma (iv) \Rightarrow (iii)

G&P ch 4
 If a clsd curve γ can be homotopically contracted to a pt a , then $\oint_{\gamma} \omega = \int_{\text{int}} d\omega = 0$. Thus no holes can be in domain.
 • $\oint_{\gamma} \omega = 0 \Rightarrow$ path indep
 • path indep \Rightarrow we can define a primitive $F_{\text{int}} = \int_a^x f$ $df = \omega$

pf The idea is to show



Thm is partial converse to $\nabla \times \nabla f = 0$: $\nabla \times F = 0 \Rightarrow \exists f \ni F = \nabla f$ (except for topological i.e. a bad domain)

(i) \Rightarrow (ii) Given two curves σ_1, σ_2 connecting a & b . Let $\sigma := \sigma_1 * (-\sigma_2)$ (Join the curves by tracing σ_1 and then going backwards on σ_2)

Then $\int_{\sigma} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0 \Rightarrow \int_{\sigma_1} + \int_{-\sigma_2} = 0 \Rightarrow \int_{\sigma_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_{\sigma_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii) $\int_C F \cdot ds$ is indep of path $\sigma \Rightarrow \exists$ potential fcn $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni \vec{F} = \nabla f$

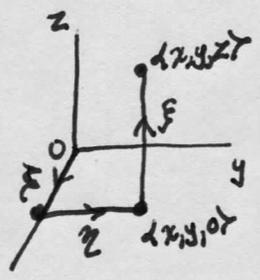
Easy case - no singularities in \mathbb{R}^3

Fix base pt (say origin 0). choose a pt x . Define $f_0(x) := \int_{\sigma} \vec{F} \cdot ds$
 $x = \langle x, y, z \rangle$

We need to compute $D_x f, D_y f, D_z f$

f_0 does not depend on σ because of indep of path.

Let us choose ~~some~~ ³ different paths σ that will make it easy to compute each partial deriv. Lets start with $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



This path σ consists of 3 straight line segments, parallel to co-ord axes. The key is that all the z variation is in the last segment

$$\int_{\sigma} F \cdot ds = \int_a^b F(\sigma(t)) \cdot \sigma'(t) dt = \int_a^b (F^1(\sigma) \dot{\sigma}_1 + F^2(\sigma) \dot{\sigma}_2 + F^3(\sigma) \dot{\sigma}_3) dt$$

$$\sigma(t) = \begin{bmatrix} t \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ for } t \in [0, x] \quad \eta(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq y \quad \xi(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ t \end{bmatrix} \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq z$$

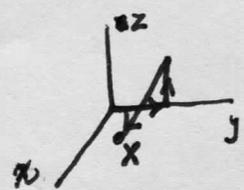
$$f_0(x) = \int_0^x F^1(t, 0, 0) dt + \int_0^y F^2(x, t, 0) dt + \int_0^z F^3(x, y, t) dt$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} f_0(x) = 0 + 0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \int_0^z F^3(x, y, t) dt$$

If we tried to do $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_0$ on this σ , it's valid, but we'd get a messy expression.

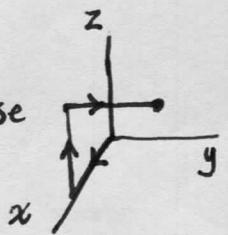
$F^3(x, y, z)$ FTC, requires no singularities on this line segment
 Rudin POMA p. 324

\triangleright For $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_0$, do the same thing with path



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_0(x) = F^1(x)$$

\triangleright For $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_0$, use

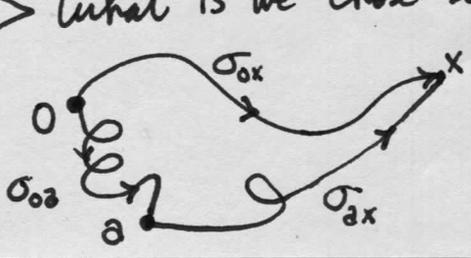


$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_0(x) = F^2(x)$$

$\vec{\nabla} f_0(x) = \vec{F}(x)$ for any x
 f_0 is the potential fcn we seek (one of many)

NOTE The path could actually be arb in the plane of the other 2 variables, we just need a straight line path for the variable we differentiate with respect to, and for this final path to have the final values of the other 2 vars.

\triangleright What if we chose a different base pt rather than 0? Lets take a what is the relationship?



$$f_0(x) = \int_{\sigma_{ox}} F \cdot ds$$

$$f_a(x) = \int_{\sigma_{ax}} F \cdot ds$$

$$\int_{\sigma_{ox}} + \int_{-\sigma_{ax}} + \int_{\sigma_{ax}} = 0 \text{ because } \sigma_{ox} \cdot (-\sigma_{ax}) = (-\sigma_{ax})$$

closed loop

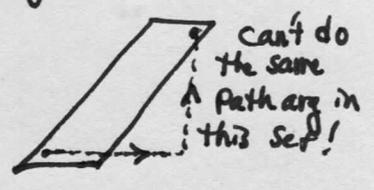
$$\Rightarrow \int_{\sigma_{ox}} = \int_{\sigma_{ax}} + \int_{\sigma_{oa}} \Rightarrow f_0(x) = f_a(x) + C$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla(f_0) = \nabla(f_a)$$

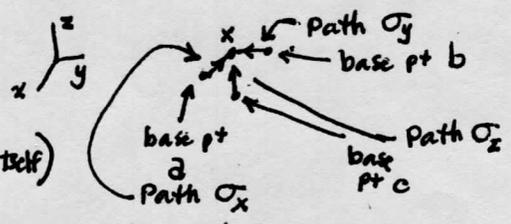
Since $\nabla(f_a) = \nabla(f_b)$ the base pt is irrelevant for pf
 Now what about singularities in the domain? or U being an open, convex set?

Here is an idea that does not work:

From the previous arg we see we really only need to approach pt $x = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ along extremely short paths in the direction of the co-ord we want to differentiate.



Thus we can avoid all singularities of F (unless x is one itself)



Thus we can get $f_a(x) = \int_{\sigma_a} F \cdot ds$
 $f_b(x) := \int_{\sigma_b} F \cdot ds$
 $f_c(x) := \int_{\sigma_c} F \cdot ds$

Here we have a problem that we get a different fcn (3 different fcns) for each x

Then it is true that $\nabla(f_a) = \nabla(f_b) = \nabla(f_c) = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \\ F_3 \end{bmatrix}$
 but we don't have a potential fcn, we have 3 $f_a(x) = f_b(x) + C_0 = f_c(x) + C_1$ and a, b, c depend on x .
~~but we could just take any one of them.~~

The real answer is that the domain U must be simply conn (Every closed loop in U is contractible over U to a pt)
~~then~~ Any 2 paths σ_1, σ_2 with the same fixed end pts are homotopic to each other
 Boothby AITDMARG p.265

- mfd M Simply Conn - Every loop γ can be contracted over M to a one pt loop.
- M Contractible - The identity map $Id: M \rightarrow M$ is homotopic to a const map $c: M \rightarrow \{m_0\}$
- The whole mfd M can be contracted over itself to a pt.



Counter example S^2 in \mathbb{R}^3
 - we could contract it to the center but we leave S^2 and go into the ambient space
 If we try to contract it over itself, we must ~~tear~~ puncture it.

p.268 Thm

ω 1-form on M
 $d\omega = 0$ (closed)
 γ_1, γ_2 any 2 paths from p to q
 $\gamma_1 \sim \gamma_2$ homotopic

$$\implies \int_{\gamma_1} \omega = \int_{\gamma_2} \omega$$

(iii) \Rightarrow (iv)

Δ show $F = \nabla f \Rightarrow \nabla \times F = 0$

$f \in C^2$

This is just computing $\nabla \times \nabla f = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ D_x & D_y & D_z \\ D_x f & D_y f & D_z f \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{yz} - f_{zy} \\ -(f_{xz} - f_{zx}) \\ f_{xy} - f_{yx} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

we can interchange the order of partial derivs of ch 2.6 sheets

Δ (iv) \Rightarrow (i) choose any closed curve σ in U

hand waving

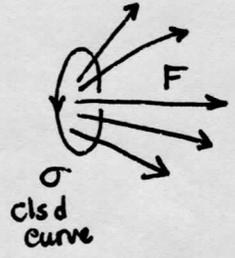
Let S be a surface in U that has σ as its ∂
 (If S passes through a singularity of F , then dent S slightly to avoid that pt - this should always work for isolated sings)

Apply Stokes: $\int_{\sigma} F \cdot ds = \int_S (\nabla \times F) \cdot n dS = \int_S 0 = 0$

□

COR This Thm holds in \mathbb{R}^2 but there U can have no holes or else not simply conn. See example further on. #12

Δ we know work $W = \int_{\sigma} F \cdot ds$ but it also has other interpretations.



Let F be the velocity field of a moving fluid

$\int_{\sigma} F \cdot ds \neq 0$ means F induces circulation around loop σ
 (yet σ is not nec a flowline of F - no fluid may actually traverse σ)

For electric field E , $EMF = \int_{\sigma} E \cdot ds$ If this integral is non-zero, E causes circulation of charge in a wire loop tracing σ .

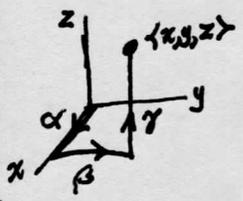
Irrrotational flow: $\text{Curl}(F) = 0$

example

Given $v.f$ F defined on all of \mathbb{R}^3 with $\nabla \times F = 0$, here are 2 methods to find a potential f (' $v.f$ generating f '): verify

$F(x,y,z) = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \cos(yz) + x \\ y \cos(yz) \end{bmatrix}$ $\nabla \times F = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ D_x & D_y & D_z \\ y & z \cos(yz) + x & y \cos(yz) \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(yz) - yz \sin(yz) \\ -[\cos(yz) - yz \sin(yz)] \\ 0 - 0 \\ 1 - 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Method 1 Integrate along straight lines parallel to z -axis:



$f(x,y,z) = \int_0^x F^{(1)}(t,0,0) dt + \int_0^y F^{(2)}(x,t,0) dt + \int_0^z F^{(3)}(x,y,t) dt$
 $= \int_0^x 0 \cdot 1 dt + \int_0^y x dt + \int_0^z y \cos(yt) dt$ $u = yt, du = y dt$
 $= c + xy + \sin(yz)$

choosing base pt 0 typically makes terms vanish extraneous

In general, this method might not be this easy.

See also my discussion in Boyce & DiPrima ODE Summary sheets \mathbb{R}^2 case

Here is a special case of Poincaré Lemma from Rudin POMA

Let U open, **Convex** set in \mathbb{R}^3

$$\vec{F} = \begin{bmatrix} P \\ Q \\ R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} P \\ Q \\ R \end{bmatrix}$$

Satisfies $\nabla \times F = 0$

$$\begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ D_1 & D_2 & D_3 \\ P & Q & R \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_y - Q_z \\ R_x - P_z \\ Q_x - P_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_2 R &= D_3 Q \\ D_1 R &= D_3 P \\ D_1 Q &= D_2 P \end{aligned}$$

Show $\exists f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni F = \nabla f$ in U

This is showing we don't need to do straight line integrals parallel to co-ord axes.

Need this

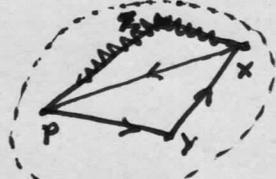
Choose base pt $p \in U$. Define $f_p(x) := \int_{[p,x]} F \cdot ds$

Choose any pt $y \in U$ not on line seg $[p, x]$. Such that $[p, y, x]$ is pos or

Let K be the planar triangular surf $[p, y, x]$

Apply Stokes $\int_K (\nabla \times F) \cdot \hat{n} ds = \oint_{\partial K} F \cdot ds$

$$0 = \int_p^y F \cdot ds + \int_y^x F \cdot ds + \int_x^p F \cdot ds \Rightarrow f_p(x) - f_p(y) = \int_y^x F \cdot ds$$



Convexity ensures that this triangle is in U for any p, x, y .

The path $[y, x] = \sigma(t) = (1-t)y + tx$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$

then $\sigma'(t) = x - y$

$$f_p(x) - f_p(y) = \int_0^1 P((1-t)y_1 + tx_1) (x_1 - y_1) + Q(\sigma(t)) (x_2 - y_2) + R(\sigma(t)) (x_3 - y_3) dt$$

Now show $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_p(x) = F^1(x)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} (f_p(x) - f_p(y)) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \int_0^1 [P((1-t)y_1 + tx_1, (1-t)y_2 + tx_2, (1-t)y_3 + tx_3) (x_1 - y_1) + Q(\sigma) (x_2 - y_2) + R(\sigma) (x_3 - y_3)] dt$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} [P((1-t)y_1 + tx_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3) (x_1 - y_1)] = D_1 P(\sigma) t (x_1 - y_1) + P(\sigma) \cdot 1$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} [Q((1-t)y_1 + tx_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3) (x_2 - y_2)] = D_1 Q(\sigma) t (x_2 - y_2) = D_2 P \text{ from } \nabla \times F = 0$$

$$= D_1 R(\sigma) t (x_3 - y_3) = D_3 P$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_p(x) = \int_0^1 [D_1 P(\sigma) t (x_1 - y_1) + P(\sigma) + D_2 P(\sigma) t (x_2 - y_2) + D_3 P(\sigma) t (x_3 - y_3)] dt$$

But observe $\frac{d}{dt} P(\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3) = D_1 P \dot{\sigma}^1 + D_2 P \dot{\sigma}^2 + D_3 P \dot{\sigma}^3 = D_1 P [x_1 - y_1] + D_2 P [x_2 - y_2] + D_3 P [x_3 - y_3]$

Thus we have $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_p(x) = \int_0^1 P(\sigma) + t \left(\frac{d}{dt} P(\sigma) \right) dt = \int_0^1 P(\sigma) dt + \int_0^1 t \left(\frac{d}{dt} P(\sigma) \right) dt$

Int by parts
 $u = t \quad du = dt$
 $d\sigma = \frac{d}{dt} P \quad v = P(\sigma)$
 $t P(\sigma) \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 P(\sigma(t)) dt$

$$= 1 P(\sigma(1)) - 0 = P(\sigma(1)) = P(x)$$

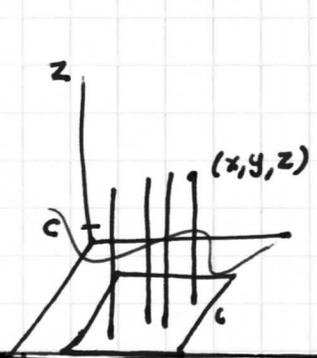
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_p(x) = F^1(x)$$

and likewise for $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} = F^2 \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_3} = F^3$



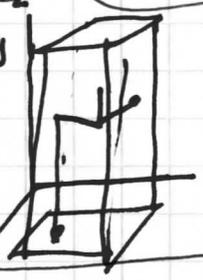
Why did we need restriction on the domain?

when we integrate $B(x,y,z) = \int_{-z}^z P(x,y,t) dt + h(x,y)$



$$\begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ D_x & D_y & D_z \\ P & Q & R \end{vmatrix} = \begin{cases} R_y - Q_z = 0 \\ R_x - P_z = 0 \\ Q_x - P_y = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} R_y = Q_z \\ R_x = P_z \\ Q_x = P_y \end{cases}$$

Poincaré domain



Let's revisit Method 2

If $\nabla \times F = 0$ we seek $f \ni F = \nabla f$

we like to take the base pt = (0,0,0) to eliminate terms

Directly solve PDEs $\begin{bmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \\ f_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} P \\ Q \\ R \end{bmatrix}$

Solve $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = P(x,y,z) \Rightarrow f(x,y,z) = \int_{x_0}^x P(t,y,z) dt + h(y,z)$

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = Q(x,y,z) \Rightarrow$

Then $\int_{x_0}^x P_y(t,y,z) dt + h_y(y,z) \stackrel{!}{=} Q(x,y,z)$

FTOC $\Rightarrow Q(x,y,z) - Q(x_0,y,z) + h_y \stackrel{!}{=} Q(x,y,z)$

$\Rightarrow h_y(y,z) = Q(x_0,y,z) \Rightarrow h(y,z) = \int_{y_0}^y Q(x_0,t,z) dt + k(z)$

$\Rightarrow f(x,y,z) = \int_{x_0}^x P(t,y,z) dt + \int_{y_0}^y Q(x_0,t,z) dt + k(z)$

and once again we compare to the next term $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \stackrel{!}{=} R$

$\Rightarrow \int_{x_0}^x P_z(t,y,z) dt + \int_{y_0}^y Q_z(x_0,t,z) dt + k'(z) \stackrel{!}{=} R(x,y,z)$

$R(x,y,z) - R(x_0,y,z) + R(x_0,y,z) - R(x_0,y_0,z) + k'(z) \stackrel{!}{=} R(x,y,z)$

Thus $f(x,y,z) = \int_{x_0}^x P(t,y,z) dt + \int_{y_0}^y Q(x_0,t,z) dt + \int_{z_0}^z R(x_0,y_0,t) dt + c$

NOTE we could have started with $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = Q$ or $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = R$ and gotten a similar formula. See my ODE writeup.

I think this is the same method as before, just disguised. (7.3.5)

Method 2 Directly solve PDEs: $\begin{bmatrix} f_x \\ f_y \\ f_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ y \\ z \cos(yz) \end{bmatrix}$

Revisit with ideas from TG Pollard p.75 DONE ON NEXT PAGE
integrating along the segment where y, z are const

Solve $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = y \Rightarrow yx + g(y, z)$
 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = z \cos(yz) + x \Rightarrow \sin(yz) + xy + h(x, z)$
 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = y \cos(yz) \Rightarrow \sin(yz) + k(x, yz)$

some fn that depends only on y, z call this f^a
 $f^a = f^b = f^c$

Take f^a : $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} f^a \stackrel{!}{=} F^{\textcircled{2}}$

$x + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \stackrel{!}{=} z \cos(yz) + x \Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = z \cos(yz) \Rightarrow g(y, z) = \sin(yz) + l(z)$

So now $f^a = yx + \sin(yz) + l(z)$

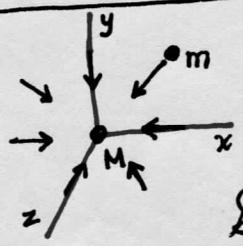
Compare to $F^{\textcircled{3}}$: $\frac{\partial f^a}{\partial z} \stackrel{!}{=} y \cos(yz) \Rightarrow y \cos(yz) + l'(z) \stackrel{!}{=} y \cos(yz)$
 $\Rightarrow l'(z) = 0$
 $\Rightarrow l(z) = C$

we don't care about constants for potential fens.

$\Rightarrow f(x, y, z) = f^a = yx + \sin(yz) + C$

$F = \nabla f$

Same thing we found by previous method, we could have started with the $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ or $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ eq also



Gravitational field Force of mass M on mass m

$\vec{F}(x) = -\frac{GMm}{\|\vec{x}\|^3} \vec{x} = -\frac{GMm}{r^3} \vec{r} = -\frac{GMm}{r^2} \hat{e}_r$

Note that this only has the domain $\mathbb{R}^3 - \{0\}$ but that is still simply conn (every loop can be contracted by going to the side of the origin), unlike $\mathbb{R}^2 - \{0\}$

Show F is irrotational ($\nabla \times F = 0$) and find potential fn

$\nabla \times F = \nabla \times \left(\frac{GMm}{r^3} \vec{r} \right) = GMm \left(\nabla \left(\frac{1}{r^3} \right) \times \vec{r} + \frac{1}{r^3} (\nabla \times \vec{r}) \right)$ ch 3.5

we know $\nabla(r^n) = n r^{n-2} \vec{r}$ so here $\nabla(r^{-3}) = -3 r^{-5} \vec{r}$

$= GMm \left(\frac{-3}{r^5} \vec{r} \times \vec{r} + \frac{1}{r^3} \nabla \times \vec{r} \right)$

$\nabla \times \vec{r} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ D_x & D_y & D_z \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Thus $\nabla \times F = 0$

① Thus we can observe if $n = -1$

$\nabla(1/r) = -\frac{1}{r^3} \vec{r}$ so $\nabla\left(\frac{GMm}{r}\right) = -\frac{GMm}{r^3} \vec{r}$

Thus $V(x) = \frac{GMm}{\|\vec{x}\|}$ is the potential fn we seek.

② Or we could do it by $W = \int F \cdot ds$

Fowles AM

$V(r) = -\int_{r_{ref}}^r F \cdot ds = -\int_{r_{ref}}^r f(r) dr$

ch 6 p.141 [Fowles AM does this calculation in spherical co-ords]

$\nabla \times F = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \begin{vmatrix} e_r & r e_\theta & r \sin \theta e_\phi \\ D_r & D_\theta & D_\phi \\ F^r & r F^\theta & r \sin \theta F^\phi \end{vmatrix}$

Fowles switches θ & ϕ from M&T

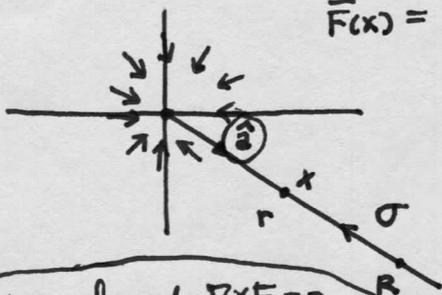
In fact, Fowles shows $F = f(r) \hat{e}_r$ has $\nabla \times F = 0$

$V(r) := -\int_{r_0}^r F \cdot ds = -\int_{r_0}^r f(r) dr$

take $r_0 = \infty$

Lets integrate to find the potential for $f \ni F = \nabla f$ 7.3.6

In more detail, since \vec{F} is radial (spherical symm), lets take our path to be a radial line. we fix a unit vector \hat{a} for direction, then specify 2 pts on the line by $x = r\hat{a}$ and reference (base) pt is $R\hat{a}$.



$$\vec{F}(x) = -\frac{GMm}{\|x\|^3} \vec{x} = -k \frac{x}{\|x\|^3}$$

The path from $R\hat{a}$ to $r\hat{a}$ is $\sigma(t) = (1-t)R\hat{a} + t r\hat{a}$ $t \in [0,1]$

Define $f_p(x) = \int_{\sigma} F \cdot ds$

The natural choice would be $p_0 = 0$ if we duplicated prev one, we'd take $p_0 = 0$ But this has problems as will be apparent.

We showed $\nabla \times F = 0$ and $\mathbb{R}^3 - \{0\}$ is Simply Conn. Thus $\int F \cdot ds$ is indep of path σ and depends only on the endpts p_0, q . Fix base pt p_0 and take the easiest path (a straight line) to q .

Note that $\|\sigma\| = (1-t)R + tR$ always pos since $r, R > 0$ we are not going thru the origin $\sigma' = (r-R)\hat{a}$

$$f(x) = \int_{\sigma} F(\sigma) \cdot \sigma' dt = \int_0^1 \frac{-k}{\|\sigma\|^3} \sigma \cdot \sigma' dt$$

$$= \int_0^1 \frac{-k}{[tr + (1-t)R]^2} (tr + (1-t)R)(r-R) dt$$

COV $u = tr + (1-t)R$
 $du = (r-R) dt$

$$= -k \int_{u=R}^r \frac{1}{u^2} du = -k \left[-\frac{1}{u} \right]_R^r$$

$$= k \left[\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{R} \right]$$

Thus if we let $R \rightarrow 0$ to take origin as base pt, we'd get $-\infty$. So ~~we~~ the convention is we let $R \rightarrow \infty$ and we take ∞ as the base pt. gravitational (well inv squared) potential fun.

$$f(x) = \frac{GMm}{r} \text{ or } \frac{GMm}{\|x\|} \text{ is potential fun.}$$

Then $\nabla f = \nabla \left(\frac{GMm}{r} \right) = GMm \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = -\frac{GMm}{r^3} \vec{r}$ and we recovered $\vec{F} = -\nabla f$

But the convention in physics is $F = -\nabla V$ so we define $V = -f$

The idea is that \vec{F} should be the direction of the steepest decrease of V

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$$

Thus $\nabla V \cdot \hat{n} = \|\nabla V\| \cos \theta$

This is a max when $\cos = 1$ ($\hat{n} = \hat{\nabla V}$) and a min when $\cos = -1$ ($\hat{n} = -\hat{\nabla V}$)

