

Formulae of Vector Calculus

Handy Theorems

1) Fundamental Theorem of Line Integrals

$$\int_C \nabla f \cdot d\mathbf{r} = f(\mathbf{r}(b)) - f(\mathbf{r}(a))$$

Notes: If \underline{F} is a conservative force field, then work in moving from $\mathbf{r}(a)$ to $\mathbf{r}(b)$ is independent of path.

For closed curve $\oint_C \nabla f \cdot d\mathbf{r} = 0$.

Test $\underline{F} = \nabla f$ for \underline{F} in 2-D with $\partial F_y / \partial x = \partial F_x / \partial y$.

If $\underline{F} = (F_x, F_y, F_z)$ perform 3 tests: $\partial F_y / \partial x = \partial F_x / \partial y$. $\partial F_z / \partial x = \partial F_x / \partial z$. $\partial F_z / \partial y = \partial F_y / \partial z$.

2) Green's Theorem

$$\oint_C \underline{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \iint_D (\nabla \times \underline{F}) \cdot \hat{k} \, dA \equiv \iint_D \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y} \, dA$$

Notes: Sum of small loops (vortices) contained by (closed curve) C in x-y plane gives big loop (surrounding circulation).

Integration around C must be in counterclockwise direction.

3) Stokes' Theorem

$$\oint_C \underline{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \iint_S \nabla \times \underline{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \equiv \iint_S (\nabla \times \underline{F}) \cdot \hat{n} \, dS$$

Notes: 3-D counterpart to Green's Theorem:

sum of vorticity on surface of balloon, the surface S, gives circulation around opening in surface.

S is NOT a closed surface

\hat{n} must point outward from "interior" of balloon.

Integration around C must be in counterclockwise direction.

4) Divergence Theorem (2-D)

$$\oint_C \underline{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = \iint_D \nabla \cdot \underline{F} \, dA \equiv \iint_D \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial y} \, dA$$

Notes: Sum of small divergences contained in (closed curve) C equals total flux of mass across C.

\hat{n} must point outward from interior of C.

Integration around C must be in counterclockwise direction.

5) Divergence Theorem (3-D)

$$\iint_S \underline{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \equiv \iint_S \underline{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, dS = \iiint_E \nabla \cdot \underline{F} \, dV$$

Notes: 3-D counterpart to divergence theorem in 2-D:

sum of small divergences contained inside surface S equals total flux of mass across S.

S MUST be a closed surface (even though there is no circle through the double integrals)

\hat{n} must point outward from interior of S.