Supplemental Materials for Math 252 Calculus III, Spring 2025 by Bo-Wen Shen

The supplemental materials with a summary in Table 1 are provided to help students review the following topics:

- (1) vector fields; (2) gradient and normal vector; (3) curl and circulation;
- (4) divergence and flux; (5) line integrals; (6) double integrals;
- (7) fundamental theorem of line integrals;
- (8) conservative fields and independence of path;
- (9) Green's theorem in both the tangential and normal forms;
- (10) a comparison amongst Green's, Stokes' and Divergence theorems.



Figure 1: Four vector fields described in Eqs. A1-A4.

Let **C** be a circle, $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$, **C**' be a circle, $x^2 + y^2 = \epsilon^2$, **D** be the region $0 \le x^2 + y^2 \le a^2$, and D_s be the region $0 < \epsilon^2 \le x^2 + y^2 \le a^2$. Let $\vec{F} = (P,Q)$ be one of the vector fields in Figure 1 as follows:

(1) Uniform rotation field, $(-y, x)$;	(A1)

(2) Uniform expansion field, (x, y); (A2)

(3) Whirlpool field,
$$(\frac{-y}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{x}{x^2+y^2})$$
; and (A3)

(4) 2D electrical field,
$$\left(\frac{x}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{y}{x^2+y^2}\right)$$
. (A4)

Solve the following problems using Eqs. (A1-A4).

1: Let \vec{F} be the vector in Eq. A1. (a) Find $\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$; (b) Find $\int \int_D \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dA$; (c) Compare the results in (a) and (b).

(e.g., p1108; p1138)

(a) Using Eq. (A1), we have

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds = \oint_C P \, dx + Q \, dy = \oint_C x \, dy - y \, dx \tag{1.1}$$

Assume

 $x = acos(\theta)$ and $y = asin(\theta)$.

Then, we have

 $dx = -asin(\theta)d\theta$ and $dy = acos(\theta)d\theta$.

Thus, the line integral above becomes

$$\oint_C x dy - y dx = \int_0^{2\pi} a^2 \cos^2\theta d\theta + a^2 \sin^2\theta d\theta = a^2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi a^2.$$
(1.2)

(b)

$$\int \int_{D} \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dA = \int \int \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\right) dx dy$$

With Eq. A1, we have

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-y) = 2.$$

Assuming

$$x = rcos(\theta)$$
 and $y = rsin(\theta)$,

the double integral above becomes

$$\int \int \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\right) dx dy = \int \int 2dx dy = 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^a r dr d\theta$$
$$= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a^2}{2} d\theta = 2\pi a^2.$$
(1.3)

(c) Equations (1.1)-(1.3) lead to

$$\int \int_{D} \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dA = \oint_{C} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds.$$
(1.4)

The above states Green's theorem in the plane, which helps to transform line integrals into double integrals, or conversely, double integrals into line integrals. More specifically, **Green's theorem in the tangential form** in Eq. (1.4) states that the double integral of the vertical component of a curl vector, $\nabla \times F \cdot \vec{k}$, over the region D along C is equal to the line integral of the tangential component of the vector, $\vec{F} \cdot \vec{T}$, along C (i.e., "circulation").

(Optional) Eq. (1.4) can help explain the physical meaning of a curl vector, $\nabla \times \vec{F}$. The mean value theorem for double integrals says that if D is simply connected, then there exists at least one point $M(x_0, y_0)$ in D such that we have

$$\int \int_D g(x,y) dx dy = g(x_0, y_0) A, \qquad (1.5)$$

where $g = \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k}$ and *A* is the area of *D*. From Eqs. (1.4)-(1.5), we obtain

$$g(x_0, y_0) = \frac{1}{A} \int \int_D \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} = \frac{1}{A} \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds.$$
(1.6)

We can select a point $N(x_1, y_1)$ in D and let D shrink down onto N so that the maximum distance d(D) from the points of D to N goes to zero. Therefore, $M(x_0, y_0)$ must approach N. Hence, Eq. (1.6) becomes

$$\nabla \times \vec{F}(x_1, y_1) \cdot \vec{k} = \lim_{d(D) \to 0} \frac{1}{A} \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds, \tag{1.7}$$

which relates the the vertical component of a curl vector to the ratio of the circulation to the area.

2: Let \vec{F} be the vector in Eq. A2.(a) Find $\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$;(b) Find $\int \int_D \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA$;(c) Compare the results in (a) and (b).

(a) Using Eq. (A2), we have

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \oint_C P dy - Q dx = \oint_C x dy - y dx$$
(2.1)

Assume

 $x = acos(\theta)$ and $y = asin(\theta)$.

Then, we have

$$dx = -asin(\theta)d\theta$$
 and $dy = acos(\theta)d\theta$.

The line integral above becomes

$$\oint_C x dy - y dx = \int_0^{2\pi} a^2 \cos^2\theta d\theta + a^2 \sin^2\theta d\theta = a^2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi a^2.$$
(2.2)

(b)

$$\int \int_{D} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA = \int \int \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}\right) dx dy$$

With Eq. A2, we have

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y) = 2.$$

Assume

 $x = rcos(\theta)$ and $y = rsin(\theta)$,

the above double integral becomes

$$\int \int \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}\right) dx dy = \int \int 2dx dy = 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^a r dr d\theta$$
$$= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a^2}{2} d\theta = 2\pi a^2.$$
(2.3)

(c) Equations (2.1)-(2.3) lead to

$$\int \int_{D} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA = \oint_{C} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds.$$
(2.4)

The above states a second vector form of Green's theorem in the plane. Similarly, it helps to transform line integrals into double integrals, or conversely, double integrals into line integrals. In contrast to Eq. (1.4), **Green's theorem in the normal form**, in Eq. (2.4), says that the double integral of the divergence of a vector field, $\nabla \cdot \vec{F}$, over the region D enclosed by C is equal to the line integral of the normal component of the vector, $\vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}$, along C (i.e., "flux").

(Optional) Eq. (2.4) can help explain the physical meaning of the divergence of a vector field, $\nabla \cdot \vec{F}$. The mean value theorem for double integrals says that if D is simply connected, then there exists at least one point $M(x_0, y_0)$ in D such that we have

$$\int \int_D g(x,y) dx dy = g(x_0, y_0) A, \qquad (2.5)$$

where $g = \nabla \cdot \vec{F}$ and *A* is the area of *D*. From Eqs. (2.4)-(2.5), we obtain

$$g(x_0, y_0) = \frac{1}{A} \int \int_D \nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{1}{A} \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds.$$
(2.6)

We can select a point $N(x_1, y_1)$ in D and let D shrink down onto N so that the maximum distance d(D) between the points from D to N goes to zero. Therefore, $M(x_0, y_0)$ must approach N. Hence, Eq. (2.6) becomes

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F}(x_1, y_1) = \lim_{d(D) \to 0} \frac{1}{A} \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds, \qquad (2.7)$$

which relates the divergence of a vector to the ratio of the flux to the area.

3: Let \vec{F} be the vector in Eq. A3. (a) Find $\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$; (b) Find $\int \int_{D_s} \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dA$; (c) Compare the results in (a) and (b).

(e.g., p1140; p1135)

(a) Using Eq. A3, we have

$$\oint_{C} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = \oint_{C} P dx + Q dy = \oint_{C} \frac{-y}{x^{2} + y^{2}} dx + \frac{x}{x^{2} + y^{2}} dy.$$
(3.1)

Assume

 $x = acos(\theta)$ and $y = asin(\theta)$.

Then, we have

$$dx = -asin(\theta)d\theta$$
 and $dy = acos(\theta)d\theta$

The line integral above becomes

$$\oint_C \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2} dx + \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} dy = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a^2 \sin^2 \theta}{a^2} d\theta + \frac{a^2 \cos^2 \theta}{a^2} d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi.$$
(3.2)

(b) Since \vec{F} in Eq. A3 has a singularity at (x, y) = (0, 0), we consider a region D_s that is bounded by C_1 and C_2 , which are counterclockwise-oriented and clockwise-oriented circles, respectively, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, \vec{F} has continuous partial derivatives on an open region that contains D_s . Using Eq. A3, we have

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2} \right) = \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} + \frac{x^2 - y^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} = 0.$$
(3.3)

Therefore, we have

$$\int \int_{D_s} \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dA = 0.$$
(3.4)

(c) From equations (3.2) and (3.4), we observe different answers. Why? It is because \vec{F} has a singularity at (x, y) = (0, 0). If we assume $C = C_1$ and $C' = -C_2$ in Figure 2, Green's Theorem can be extended to the region D_s with the positively orentied boundary $C \cup (-C')$, leading to

$$\int \int_{D_s} \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dA = \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds + \oint_{-C'} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds.$$

From the above equation and Eq. (3.4), we obtain

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = \oint_{C'} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds.$$
(3.5)

(**Optional**) Note that $\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = 0$ when $r \neq 0$ and $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, as shown below.

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial X} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}\right) = \frac{2xy}{x^2 + y^2} + \frac{-2xy}{x^2 + y^2} = 0.$$
(3.6)

(**Optional**) Can we can obtain a potential function f such that $\vec{F} = \nabla f$?

4: Let \vec{F} be the vector in Eq. A4. (a) Find $\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$; (b) Find $\int \int_{D_s} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA$; (c) Compare the results in (a) and (b).

(a) Using Eq. (A4), we have

$$\oint_{C} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \oint_{C} P dy - Q dx = \int_{C} \frac{x}{x^{2} + y^{2}} dy - \frac{y}{x^{2} + y^{2}} dx.$$
(4.1)

Assume

$$x = acos(\theta)$$
 and $y = asin(\theta)$.

We have

 $dx = -asin(\theta)d\theta$ and $dy = acos(\theta)d\theta$.

Thus, the line integral above becomes

$$\oint_C \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} dy - \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} dx = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a^2 \cos^2\theta}{a^2} d\theta + \frac{a^2 \sin^2\theta}{a^2} d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi.$$
(4.2)

(b) Since \vec{F} in Eq. A4 has a singularity at (x, y) = (0, 0), we consider a region D_s that is bounded by C_1 and C_2 , which are counterclockwise-oriented and clockwise-oriented circles, respectively, as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, \vec{F} has continuous partial derivatives on an open region that contains D_s . Using Eq. A4, we have

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} \right) = \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} + \frac{x^2 - y^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} = 0,$$
(4.3)



Figure 2: A diagram for the curves C and C', which are indicated by C_1 and $-C_2$, respectively.

which leads to

$$\int \int_{D_s} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA = 0. \tag{4.4}$$

(c) From equations (4.2) and (4.4), we observe different answers, which are related to the singularity at (x, y) = (0, 0). If we assume $C = C_1$ and $C' = -C_2$ in Figure 2, Green's Theorem in the normal form can be extended to the region D_s with the positively oriented boundary $C \cup (-C')$, leading to

$$\int \int_{D_s} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dA = \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds + \oint_{-C'} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds.$$

With the above equation and Eq. (4.4), we have

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \oint_{C'} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds.$$
(4.5)

(**Optional**) Note that $\nabla \times \vec{F} = 0$ when $r \neq 0$ and $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, as shown below.

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} = \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial X} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}\right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}\right) = \frac{-2xy}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{-2xy}{x^2 + y^2} = 0.$$
(4.6)

(Optional) Here we discuss how to obtain a potential function for the vector field in Eq. A4, $(\frac{x}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{y}{x^2+y^2})$. By the definition of a potential function, $\vec{F} = \nabla f$, we have

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2},\tag{4.7a}$$

and

$$f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}.$$
(4.7b)

From Eq. (4.7a), we have $f = ln\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + g(y)$. We then calculate f_y , which is equal to $\frac{y}{x^2+y^2} + g_y$, and plug it into Eq. (4.7b) to obtain $g_y=0$ and, thus, g = c, here *c* is a constant. Without loss of generality, we can choose c = 0 and thus have the potential function as follows:

$$f = \ln\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}.$$
 (4.8)

5: Let *F* be the vector in Eq. A2 and *f* be the potential function. Let C₀ be any curve from point A (*i*, *j*) to point B (*k*, *l*). Therefore, C₀ can be either C₁ + C₂ or C₃, as shown in Figure 3.
(a) Find ∫_{C1+C2} *F* · d*r*;
(b) Find ∫_{C3} *F* · d*r*;
(c) Find a potential function such that *F* = ∇*f*;
(d) Calculate ∫_A^B ∇*f* · d*r*;
(e) Compare the results from (a)-(d).

(a)

$$\int_{C_1+C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_1} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} + \int_{C_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_1} (xdx + ydy) + \int_{C_2} (xdx + ydy)$$

$$= \int_{i}^{k} x dx + \int_{j}^{l} y dy = \frac{1}{2} \left(k^{2} - i^{2} + l^{2} - j^{2} \right)$$
(5.1)

(b) Along the line segment C_3 , we have (x, y) = (i, j) + t(k - i, l - j), t = 0 - 1, and (dx, dy) = (k - i, l - j)dt. The line integral along C_3 is:

$$\int_{C_3} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{C_3} (x \, dx + y \, dy) = \int_0^1 \left[\left(i + t(k-i) \right) (k-i) dt + \left(j + t(l-j) \right) (l-j) dt \right] \\ = i(k-i)t \Big|_0^1 + (k-i)^2 \frac{t^2}{2} \Big|_0^1 + j(l-j)t \Big|_0^1 + (l-j)^2 \frac{t^2}{2} \Big|_0^1 \\ = i(k-i) + \frac{1}{2}(k-i)^2 + j(l-j) + \frac{1}{2}(l-j)^2 \\ = \frac{1}{2} \left(k^2 - i^2 + l^2 - j^2 \right).$$
(5.2)

(c) For the vector field in Eq. A2, $\vec{F} = (x, y)$, and the definition of a potential function, $\vec{F} = \nabla f$, we have

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = x, \tag{5.3a}$$



Figure 3: A diagram for the line segments C_1 , C_2 and C_3 .

and

$$f_{y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = y. \tag{5.3b}$$

From Eq. (5.3a), we have $f = x^2/2 + g(y)$, giving $f_y = g_y$. Plugging $f_y = g_y$ into Eq. (5.3b), we obtain $g = y^2/2 + c$, where *c* is a constant. Without loss of generality, we can choose c = 0 and thus have the potential function as follows.

$$f = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2).$$
(5.4)

(d) Therefore,

$$\int_{A}^{B} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_{A}^{B} \nabla f \cdot dr = f(B) - f(A) = \frac{1}{2}(k^{2} + l^{2} - i^{2} - j^{2}).$$
(5.5)

(e) The integrals in (a) and (b) provide the same answer as that in (d) for the integral using the potential function. These results indicate the path independence of line integrals.

6: (Optional) Let \vec{F} represent the 3D vector field,

$$\vec{F} = \frac{(x, y, z)}{r^3}, \quad r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2},$$

 S_a be the surface $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$, S_{ϵ} be the surface $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = \epsilon^2$, and D_3 be the region $0 < \epsilon^2 \le x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \le a^2$. (a) Find the net outward flux, i.e., $\iiint_{D_3} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dV$; (b) Find the outward flux across the sphere S_a , i.e., $\iint_{S_a} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} dS$;

(c) Compare the results in (a) and (b).

(a) Let (P,Q,R) represent the vector \vec{F} , where $\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = P_x + Q_y + R_z$. We first calculate P_x , Q_y and R_z as follows.

$$P_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{x}{r^3} = \frac{y^2 + z^2 - 2x^2}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}} = \frac{y^2 + z^2 - 2x^2}{r^5}.$$

Similarly, we can obtain

$$Q_y = \frac{x^2 + z^2 - 2y^2}{r^5}$$
 and $R_z = \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 2z^2}{r^5}$

Therefore, we have

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = P_x + Q_y + R_z = 0 \quad \text{when } r \neq 0, \tag{6.1}$$

leading to

$$\iiint_{D_3} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dV = 0. \tag{6.2}$$

(See also p1184)

(b) By defining $g = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$, a normal vector is determined as

$$\vec{n}_1 = \frac{\nabla g}{|\nabla g|} = \frac{(x, y, z)}{a}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\iint_{S_a} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_1 dS = \iint_{S_a} \frac{(x, y, z)}{a^3} \cdot \frac{(x, y, z)}{a} dS = \iint_{S_a} \frac{dS}{a^2} = \frac{4\pi a^2}{a^2} = 4\pi.$$
(6.3)

(c)

$$\iiint_{D_3} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dV = 0 = \iint_{S_a} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_1 dS + \iint_{S_e} \vec{F} \cdot (-\vec{n}_0) dS,$$

where $-\vec{n}_0$ is the normal vector of the surface S_{ϵ} , as shown in Figure 4. Thus, we have

$$\iint_{S_a} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_1 dS = \iint_{S_e} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_0 dS = 4\pi.$$
(6.4)

7: Here, for a comparison with problem 6, we re-formulate the problem 4 as follows. Let \vec{F} represent the 2D vector field,

$$\vec{F} = rac{(x,y)}{r^2}, \quad r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2},$$

and D_s be the region $0 < \epsilon^2 \le x^2 + y^2 \le a^2$. (a) Find the net outward flux, i.e., $\iint_{D_s} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dS$; (b) Find the outward flux across the **circle** $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$, i.e., $\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$; (c) Compare the results in (a) and (b).

(a) Based on what has been discussed in problem 4, we have

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = 0 \quad \text{when } r \neq 0, \tag{7.1}$$

and

$$\iint_{D_s} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dS = 0. \tag{7.2}$$

(b) By defining $g = x^2 + y^2 = a^2$, a normal vector is determined as

$$\vec{n}_1 = \frac{\nabla g}{|\nabla g|} = \frac{(x, y)}{a}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_1 ds = \oint_C \frac{(x,y)}{a^2} \cdot \frac{(x,y)}{a} ds = \oint_C \frac{x^2 + y^2}{a^3} ds = \frac{1}{a} \oint_C ds = \frac{2\pi a}{a} = 2\pi.$$
(7.3)

(c)

$$\iint_{D_s} \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dS = 0 = \oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_1 ds + \oint_{C'} \vec{F} \cdot (-\vec{n}_0) ds$$

here $-\vec{n}_0$ is the normal vector of the circle C': $x^2 + y^2 = \epsilon^2$. Therefore, we have

$$\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_1 ds = \oint_{C'} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}_0 ds = 2\pi.$$
(7.4)



Figure 4: A diagram for the surfaces S_a and S_e and their normal vectors, \vec{n}_1 and \vec{n}_0 , respectively.

Table 1: A Summary

