

§16.2-3 The three first order operators of classical physics - ①

The equations of classical physics (Fluid Dynamics, Electromagnetism etc.) are formulated in terms of three first order operators: Grad, Div, Curl

Defn: An operator is a function whose inputs & outputs are functions

$$(1) \nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

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

$$(2) \text{Div } \vec{F} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = \nabla \cdot \vec{F}$$

$$(3) \text{Curl } \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ M & N & P \end{vmatrix} = (P_y - N_z)\hat{i} - (P_x - M_z)\hat{j} + (N_x - M_y)\hat{k} = \nabla \times \vec{F}$$

• Each operator  $\nabla$ ,  $\text{Div}$ ,  $\text{Curl}$  has a 3 dimensional version of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (FTC) that goes with it

(1)  $\nabla \Leftrightarrow$  "Conservation of Energy"

(2)  $\text{Div} \Leftrightarrow$  Divergence Theorem

(3)  $\text{Curl} \Leftrightarrow$  Stokes Theorem

• Recall: FTC says "the integral of a derivative reduces to an undifferentiated function evaluated on the boundary"

Simplest Case: Math 21B

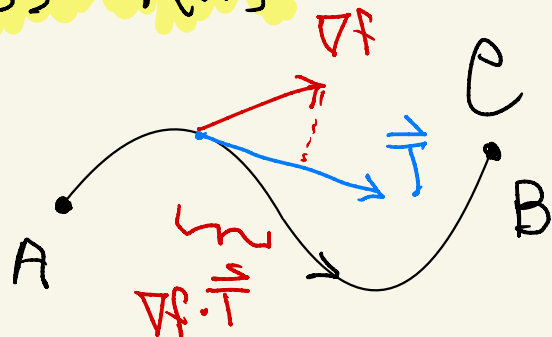
$$\int_a^b f'(x) dx = f(b) - f(a)$$

integral of the derivative on  $[a, b]$

undifferentiated function  $f$  evaluated on the boundary  $x = a, b$

# (1) $\nabla$ : Conservation of Energy (3)

$$\int_C \nabla f \cdot \vec{T} ds = f(B) - f(A)$$

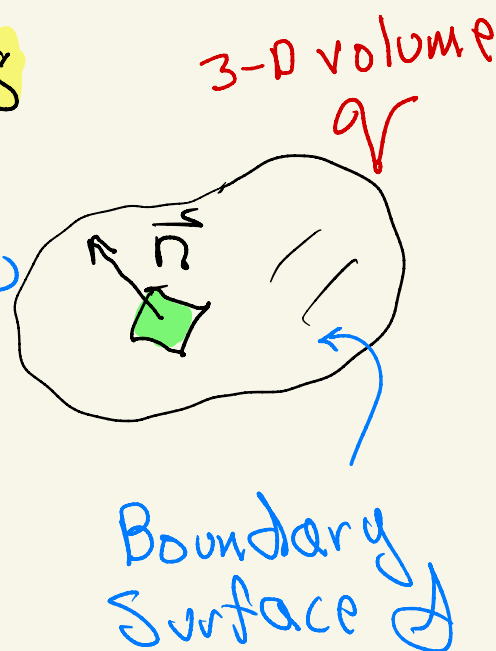


## (2) Div: Divergence Thm

$$\iiint_V \text{Div } \vec{F} dv = \iint_{\partial} \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

3-D triple integral defined in §15

2D Surface Integral (Flux)

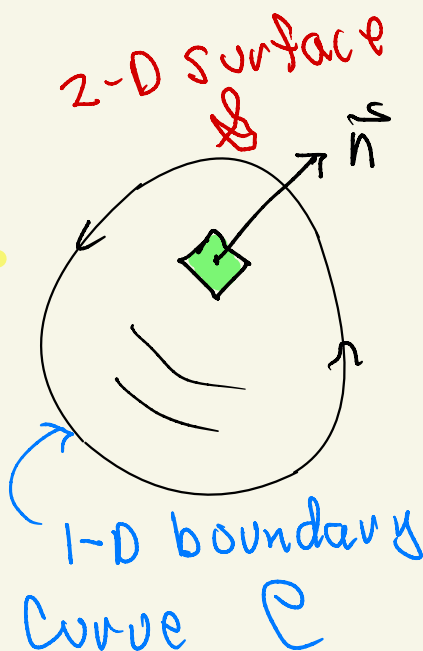


## (3) Curl: Stokes Theorem

$$\iint_{\mathcal{S}} \text{Curl } \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds$$

2-D surface integral (Flux)

line integral around closed boundary



## Our First Generalization of FTC (4)

(1) The FTC associated with the Gradient:

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

"input" ( $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )      output  $\nabla f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$

We use the notation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y, z) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y, z) - f(x, y, z)}{\Delta x}$$

We know (Math 21C) The Gradient takes a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (think of  $f$  as giving the temperature  $f(\underline{x})$  at  $\underline{x} = (x, y, z)$ ) and assigns to it the vector  $\nabla f(x, y, z) = \overrightarrow{(M, N, P)}$  which points in direction of steepest increase of  $f$ .

• The first generalization of FTC involves the Gradient & we call it Conservation of Energy



(5)

(1)  $\nabla$ : Conservation of Energy

$$\int_C \nabla f \cdot \vec{T} \, ds = f(B) - f(A)$$

Another way to say it:

We can evaluate the

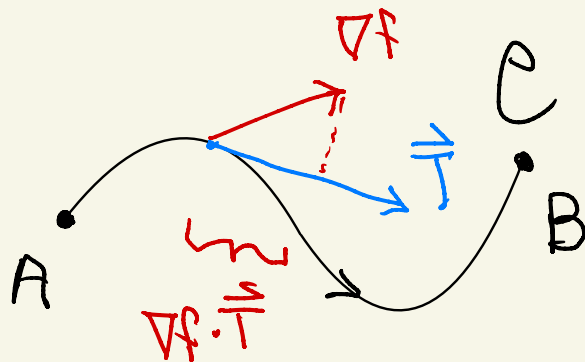
line integral  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds$

if we can find an "anti-derivative"  $f(x)$  such that  $\nabla f(x) = \vec{F}(x) = \overrightarrow{(M(x), N(x), P(x))}$  at every point  $x = (x, y, z)$ . In this case

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds = f(B) - f(A)$$

Defn: We say a vector field  $\vec{F} = \overrightarrow{(M, N, P)}$  is conservative if there exists  $f$  st  $\nabla f = \vec{F}$

Important: Most Vector Fields  $\vec{F}$  are NOT Conservative!



Questions to answer:

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Q1: why is it true?

Q2: why is it called Conservation of Energy?

Q3: Given  $\vec{F}$ , how do you determine whether or not it is conservative?

It's easy to construct Examples:

Given  $f(x)$ , just calculate  $\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$

Ex: Let  $f(x) = xyz^3 \Rightarrow \nabla f = (y^2 z^3, 2xyz^3, 3xy^2 z^2)$

Let  $C$ : straight line from  $(0,0,0)$  to  $(1,1,1)$ .

Show  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = f(1,1,1) - f(0,0,0) = 1 \cdot 1^2 \cdot 1^3 - 0 = 1$

ie Parameterize:  $x=t, y=t, z=t \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$   
 $\vec{r}(t) = (t, t, t), \quad \vec{v}(t) = (1, 1, 1)$

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = \int_0^1 \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} dt = \int_0^1 (y^2 z^3, 2xyz^3, 3xy^2 z^2) \cdot (1, 1, 1) dt$$
$$\int_0^1 t^5 + 2t^5 + 3t^5 dt = \int_0^1 6t^5 dt = 6 \cdot \frac{t^6}{6} \Big|_0^1 = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

• Why is FTC-1 true?

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Ans: Chain Rule

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt} \\ &= \nabla f \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}, \frac{dz}{dt} \right) \\ &= \nabla f \cdot \vec{v}(t) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore -

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = \int_a^b \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} dt = \int_a^b \nabla f \cdot \vec{v} dt$$

For C:  $\vec{r}(t), a \leq t \leq b$

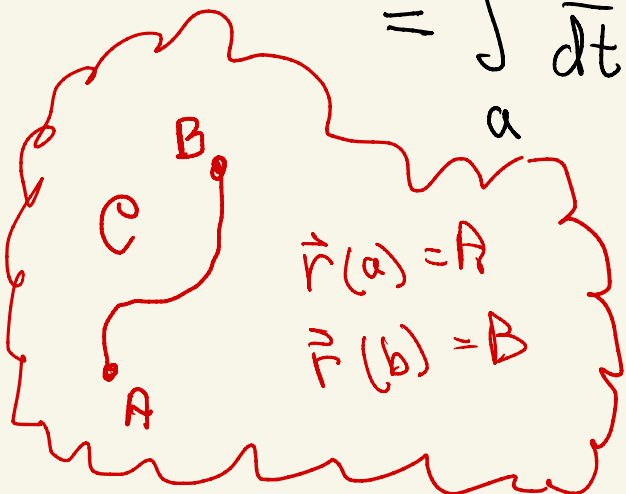
assuming  $\vec{F}$  conservative

$\frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t), z(t))$

$$= \int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} f(\vec{r}(t)) dt = f(\vec{r}(a)) - f(\vec{r}(b))$$

Math 21B  
FTC

$$= f(B) - f(A)$$



✓

Q2: why is it called Conservation of Energy?

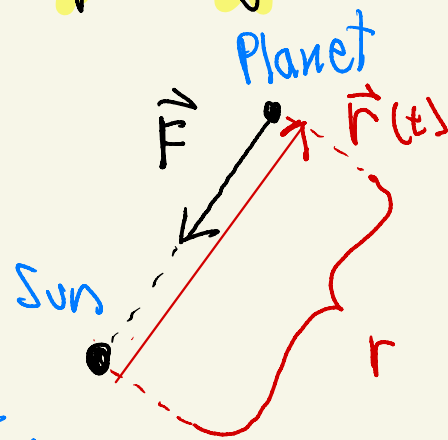
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Example: Newton's Theory of Gravity

Recall: Newton explained the motion of the planets by assuming the sun was pulling with an inverse square force:

$$\vec{F} = M_p \vec{a} = -G \frac{M_p M_s}{r^2} \frac{\vec{r}}{r}$$

magnitude direction



Claim:

$$\nabla \frac{1}{|\vec{r}|} = -\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$$

$$\vec{r} = (x, y, z) \equiv \underline{x}$$

$$|\vec{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = r$$

Check: let  $f(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{|\vec{r}|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} = \frac{1}{|\underline{x}|}$

It suffices to show  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = -\frac{x}{|\underline{x}|^3}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I.e. Then } \nabla f &= -\left(\frac{x}{|\underline{x}|^3}, \frac{y}{|\underline{x}|^3}, \frac{z}{|\underline{x}|^3}\right) = -\frac{1}{|\underline{x}|^3} (x, y, z) \\ &= -\frac{\underline{x}}{r^3} \end{aligned}$$

(Cont.) We prove  $\nabla \frac{1}{|\underline{x}|} = -\frac{\underline{x}}{|\underline{x}|^3}$

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Calculations involving partial derivatives of  $r = |\underline{x}|$  are done so often it is very convenient to have a quick way to do them...

For this - note  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}$ ,  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{r}$ ,  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{r}$

i.e.  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \cdot 2x = \frac{x}{r}$  ✓

Thus:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{1}{r} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} r^{-1}(x, y, z) = -1 \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{x}{r} = -\frac{x}{r^3}$

Therefore:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{x}{r^3}$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{y}{r^3}$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{z}{r^3}$   
(Symmetry)

$\Rightarrow$   
(implies)

$$\nabla \frac{1}{r^3} = -\frac{\underline{r}}{r^3}$$

✓

Conclude:

$$-G M_p M_s \frac{1}{r^3} = G M_p M_s \nabla \frac{1}{r}$$

Conclude: Newton's Gravitational Force Field is Conservative!

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$$\vec{F} = -GM_s M_p \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} = \nabla f = -\nabla P$$

$$f = GM_s M_p \frac{1}{r} \quad \left( f(x, y, z) = \frac{GM_s M_p}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right)$$

Now we can apply FTC-1

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} \, ds = \int_C \nabla f \cdot \vec{T} \, ds = f(B) - f(A)$$

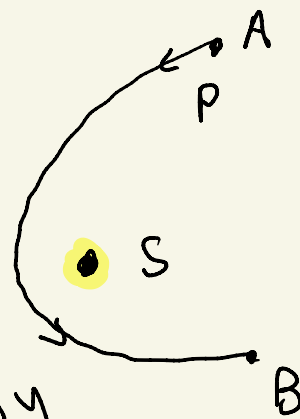
The work done  
by Gravitation Force  
as planet moves along  $C$

The change in  $f$   
= minus the change in  
"potential energy"

- In physics:  $P = \text{Potential Energy} = -f$   
associated with a conservative force  $\vec{F} = \nabla f$   
is defined to be  $P(x) = -f(x)$   
so  $\vec{F} = -\nabla P$   
 $\uparrow$  minus sign



Picture: The change in potential energy  $\Delta P = P(B) - P(A)$  keeps track of (i.e., is exactly equal to) minus the work done by  $\vec{F}$  along the motion.



Q: So why is the "work" defined by a line integral important in the first place?

Ans: If  $\vec{F}$  is the only force acting on the planet, i.e., then motion  $\vec{r}(t)$  satisfies

$$M_p \cdot \ddot{\vec{r}}(t) = \vec{F},$$

the work done is also equal to the change in kinetic energy —

Theorem: If  $\vec{F} = -GM_s M_p \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$ , and  $M_s \ddot{\vec{r}} = \vec{F}$ ,

then  $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} M_p V_B^2 - \frac{1}{2} M_p V_A^2}_{\text{the change in Kinetic Energy}} = \Delta KE$

the change in Kinetic Energy

Proof of Theorem: Assume  $M_p \vec{a} = \vec{F}$

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where  $\vec{F} = -GM_s M_p \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$ . Then

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_a^b \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} dt = \int_a^b M_p \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} \cdot \vec{v} dt$$

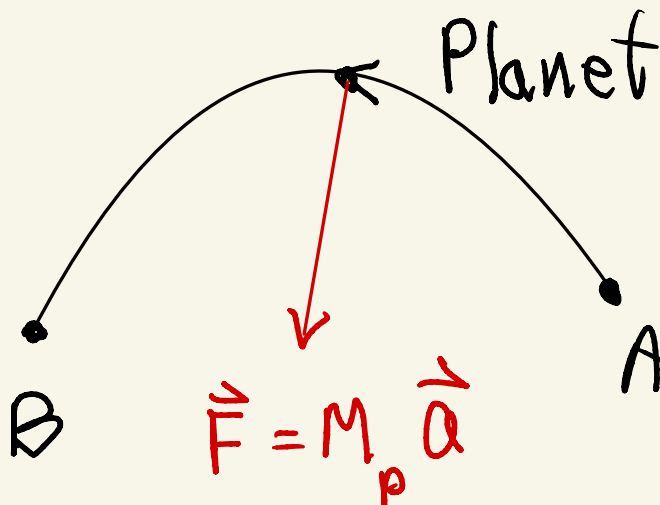
$$= M_p \int_a^b \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}) dt = \frac{1}{2} M_p \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} \Big|_{t=a}^{t=b}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} M_p V_B^2 - \frac{1}{2} M_p V_A^2 = \Delta KE \quad \checkmark$$

$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} = v^2$

$v(a) = V_A, \quad v(b) = V_B$

Change in  
Kinetic Energy



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Conclude: If the planet moves according to

$$M_p \vec{a} = \vec{F}$$

where  $\vec{F}$  is the gravitational force of the sun

$$\vec{F} = -GM_s M_p \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$$

then along the motion

$$\Delta KE = \frac{1}{2} M_p V_B^2 - \frac{1}{2} M_p V_A^2 = \int_e \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = -(P(B) - P(A)) = -\Delta PE$$

OR:  $\Delta KE + \Delta PE = \Delta \text{Energy} = 0$

We say energy is conserved all along the motion. This is Conservation of Energy

Conclude: FTC-1  $\int_e \nabla f \cdot \vec{T} ds = f(B) - f(A)$

is the basis for the physical principle of Conservation of Energy -

Summary - Newton unified all the laws of planetary motion known in his lifetime - namely Kepler's three laws - by postulating an inverse square force law between neighboring masses.

•  $F = M_p \vec{a}$  and  $\vec{F} = - \frac{GM_p M_s}{r^2} \frac{\vec{r}}{r}$  led to

"three miracles", Kepler's three laws

• A "4th miracle" is that  $\vec{F} = -\nabla P$

$$P(x) = - \frac{GM_p M_s}{r} \quad \text{potential energy}$$

So conservation of energy holds all along a planetary orbit  $\vec{r}(t)$ :

$$P(\vec{r}(t)) + \frac{1}{2} m \vec{v}(t)^2 = \text{constant}$$

This explains why orbits without a threshold energy remain trapped within the solar system?