

A proof of the independence of the surface integral with respect to parameterization

The surface integral should be independent of the way in which we parameterize the surface: suppose we have a parameterization of a surface Σ by $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(u, v)$ where (u, v) lie in a region U . Suppose that we have another parameterization given by $u = u(w, z)$ and $v = v(w, z)$ where (w, z) lie in a region W .

Theorem.

$$\begin{aligned} \int \int_{\Sigma} f(\mathbf{r}) dS &= \int \int_U f(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right\| du dv \\ &= \int \int_W f(\mathbf{r}(u(w, z), v(w, z))) \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial w} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial z} \right\| dw dz. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We need to compute $\partial \mathbf{r} / \partial w \times \partial \mathbf{r} / \partial z$ in terms of $\partial \mathbf{r} / \partial u$ and $\partial \mathbf{r} / \partial v$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial w} &= \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial w}, \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial w} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial z} &= \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial w} \right) \times \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial w} \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial v}{\partial w} \right) \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(w, z)} \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} &\int \int_W f(\mathbf{r}(u(w, z), v(w, z))) \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial w} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial z} \right\| dw dz \\ &= \int \int_W f(\mathbf{r}(u(w, z), v(w, z))) \left| \frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(w, z)} \right| \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right\| dw dz \\ &= \int \int_U f(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) \left\| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right\| du dv \end{aligned}$$

as we wanted.

A proof of Stoke's theorem

Theorem. Suppose that Σ is an oriented surface which is parameterized by $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}(u, v)$ for (u, v) in a region U in the plane. Suppose that the normal vector \mathbf{n} for Σ at $\mathbf{r}(u, v)$ is in the direction of $\partial\mathbf{r}/\partial u \times \partial\mathbf{r}/\partial v$. Then

$$\int_C \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int \int_{\Sigma} \text{curl} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r}) dS$$

where C is the boundary of Σ (oriented consistently with Σ).

Proof. Suppose that the boundary C of Σ is the image of the boundary C' of U in the plane. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_C \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_{C'} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} du + \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} dv \right) \\ &= \int \int_U \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} \left(\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) \cdot \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left(\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) \cdot \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \right) \right) du dv \\ &= \int \int_U \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v))) \cdot \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v))) \cdot \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \right) du dv \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v))) = \frac{\partial\mathbf{F}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial\mathbf{F}}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial\mathbf{F}}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int \int_U \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v))) \cdot \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v))) \cdot \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \right) du dv = \\ \int \int_U \left(\frac{\partial\mathbf{F}}{\partial x} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \right) + \cdots + \frac{\partial\mathbf{F}}{\partial z} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \right) \right) du dv \end{aligned}$$

Using $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) = M(\mathbf{r})\mathbf{i} + N(\mathbf{r})\mathbf{j} + P(\mathbf{r})\mathbf{k}$, the first term of the above integrand is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \right) + \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right) + \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \right) \\ = \mathbf{k} \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right) - \mathbf{j} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right) \\ = \left(\mathbf{k} \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \mathbf{j} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial\mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\mathbf{k}(\partial N/\partial x) - \mathbf{j}(\partial P/\partial x)$ is the part of $\text{curl } \mathbf{F}$ that involves derivatives with respect to x . Adding the the other terms in the integrand, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int \int_U \text{curl } \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}(u, v)) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial v} \right) du dv \\ &= \int \int_{\Sigma} \text{curl } \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r}) dS\end{aligned}$$