

Exercise walk-through

18.1

Coordinate changes and vector integral theorems

GRE · GRE Subject Test · GRE Mathematics

6. Choose and justify a method

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Changing variables scales area or volume by the absolute Jacobian determinant. Polar coordinates use $r \, dr \, d\theta$; cylindrical coordinates use $r \, dr \, d\theta \, dz$; spherical coordinates with ϕ measured from the positive z -axis use $\rho^2 \sin(\phi) \, d\rho \, d\phi \, d\theta$. State angle conventions and transform both the integrand and the region. A missing Jacobian changes a uniform density integral into the wrong physical quantity.

10. Worked reasoning

Worked reasoning

For $F=(x,y,z)$, divergence is 3. The outward flux through the sphere of radius 2 is therefore 3 times its volume, or $3 \cdot (4\pi \cdot 2^3/3)=32\pi$. This avoids a surface parameterisation. For the planar field $(-y,x)$, Green's theorem gives counterclockwise unit-circle circulation as integral of $1-(-1)=2$ over the disk, hence 2π . Reversing the orientation changes the circulation sign.

16. Reasoning and check

Reasoning and check

Parameterise $r(t) = (\cos t, \sin t)$ for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$. Then $G(r(t)) = (-\sin t, \cos t) = r'(t)$, so $G \cdot r' = 1$ and the integral is 2π . The field is undefined at the origin inside the disk. Green's theorem requires the needed smoothness on a neighbourhood of the region, not just on its boundary. Zero curl on a punctured domain does not establish a global potential; a closed nonexact field can circulate around its hole.

Exercise 2.1

2.1 What is the polar-coordinate area element?

[1]

- **A** $dr \, d\theta$
- **B** $r \, dr \, d\theta$
- **C** $r^2 \, dr \, d\theta$
- **D** $\sin(\theta) \, dr \, d\theta$
- **E** $r^{-1} \, dr \, d\theta$

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2.1 B. The absolute Jacobian of $(r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$ is r . Unit scale, r squared, $\sin \theta$ and inverse r do not equal the polar area Jacobian r . The sine factor belongs to spherical coordinates with different variables.

Exercises 2.2·2.3

2.2 For $F=(x,y,z)$, what is the outward flux through the unit sphere?

[1]

- **A** 0
- **B** π
- **C** 2π
- **D** 4π
- **E** 12π

2.3 Evaluate $\iint_D (x^2 + y^2) dA$ on $1 \leq x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$. Find the outward flux of $F = (x, y, z)$

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2.2 D. Divergence is 3 and unit-ball volume is $4\pi/3$, so outward flux is 4π . Divergence three times ball volume 4π over three is 4π . Twelve π uses sphere area in place of volume; zero and the smaller π multiples omit part of the flux.

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2.3 The annulus has polar bounds $1 \leq r \leq 2$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$. Including the Jacobian,

$$I = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_1^2 r^3 dr d\theta = 15\pi/2.$$

F is continuously differentiable on the whole ball and has divergence three. The divergence theorem gives outward flux $3(4\pi/3) = 4\pi$. Inward orientation would reverse its sign.

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Local four-mark guidance for each written task: choose and justify the method; carry through the reasoning; give every requested result; check the relevant restriction, hypothesis or boundary case. These are classroom marks, not GRE scoring.