

Lecture 18: Surface Integrals of vector functions.

The flow rate of fluid out of the total surface S , or the **flux** of the velocity vector field \mathbf{F} out of the surface S , with outward unit normal \mathbf{n} , is given by

$$\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS$$

That only the normal component of \mathbf{F} matters is clear since a tangential velocity would not contribute to the flow of fluid out from the surface.

The question of how to calculate the flux reduces how to calculate surface integrals. In a parametrization $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}(u, v)$ we have

$$dS = \|\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v\| \, du \, dv, \quad \mathbf{n} = \pm \mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v / \|\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v\|.$$

Hence

$$\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS = \pm \iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot (\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v) \, du \, dv$$

Here the sign is positive if $\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v$ points out from the surface.

Ex. Find the flux of $\mathbf{F} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} - 2z\mathbf{k}$ out of the surface S of the cube $C = \{(x, y, z); 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1, 0 \leq z \leq 1\}$.

Sol. The Cube has six sides S_1 with $x = 0$, S_2 with $x = 1$, S_3 with $y = 0$, S_4 with $y = 1$, S_5 with $z = 0$ and S_6 with $z = 1$. On S_1 , the outward normal is $-\mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = (y\mathbf{j} - 2z\mathbf{k}) \cdot (-\mathbf{i}) = 0$, on S_2 , $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = (\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} - 2z\mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{i} = 1$, on S_3 , $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, on S_4 , $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 1$, on S_5 , $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, and on S_6 , $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} = -2$. Since the area of each side is one it follows that

$$\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS = \iint_{S_1} \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS + \dots + \iint_{S_6} \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS = 0 + 1 + 0 + 1 + 0 - 2 = 0$$

Ex. Find the flux of the vector field $\mathbf{F} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} - 2z\mathbf{k}$ out of the sphere $S = \{(x, y, z); x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1\}$.

Sol. The surface can be written $h(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$. The outward unit normal to the unit sphere is $\mathbf{n} = \nabla h / |\nabla h| = (x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}) / \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$, when $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$. Therefore

$$\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS = \iint_S x^2 + y^2 - 2z^2 \, dS$$

There are several ways to proceed:

(1) In Spherical coordinates, $\mathbf{T}(\phi, \theta) = \sin \phi \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + \sin \phi \sin \theta \mathbf{j} + \cos \phi \mathbf{k}$. Then $dS = |\mathbf{T}_\phi \times \mathbf{T}_\theta| \, d\phi \, d\theta = \sin \phi \, d\phi \, d\theta$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi (\sin^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta - 2 \cos^2 \phi) \sin \phi \, d\phi \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi (\sin^2 \phi - 2 \cos^2 \phi) \sin \phi \, d\phi \, d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi (1 - 3 \cos^2 \phi) \sin \phi \, d\phi \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} -\cos \phi + \cos^3 \phi \Big|_{\phi=0}^\pi \, d\theta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

(2) The sphere S can be written as the union of the northern hemisphere S_+ and southern hemisphere S_- and each of these can be viewed as a graph over the x - y plane $S_{\pm} = \{(x, y, z); z = \pm\sqrt{1-x^2-y^2}, (x, y) \in D\}$, where $D = \{(x, y); x^2+y^2 \leq 1\}$. Since the integrand and the sphere are symmetric under changing z to $-z$ we have

$$\iint_S x^2 + y^2 - 2z^2 dS = 2 \iint_{S_+} x^2 + y^2 - 2z^2 dS$$

We can now instead write $dS = \frac{dxdy}{|\cos \gamma|} = \frac{dxdy}{|\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{k}|} = \frac{dxdy}{z} = \frac{dxdy}{\sqrt{1-x^2-y^2}}$ so

$$\iint_{S_+} x^2 + y^2 - 2z^2 dS = \iint_D (3(x^2 + y^2) - 2) \frac{dxdy}{\sqrt{1-x^2-y^2}}$$

Introducing polar coordinates we get

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_D \frac{dxdy}{\sqrt{1-x^2-y^2}} &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 (3r^2 - 2)(1-r^2)^{-1/2} r dr d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 -3(1-r^2)^{1/2} r + (1-r^2)^{-1/2} dr d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} (1-r^2)^{3/2} - (1-r^2)^{1/2} \Big|_{r=0}^1 d\theta = 0. \end{aligned}$$

(3) Finally, one can also use symmetry to see that

$$\iint_S x^2 dS = \iint_S y^2 dS = \iint_S z^2 dS.$$