

More problems on conservative fields and potential functions

1. For each of the following, determine if the given vector field is conservative. If so, find a potential function for the field and use the potential to evaluate $\int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s}$ for a curve C that starts at the origin and ends at $(3, 2, -7)$.

(a) $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = \langle y, z \cos(yz) + x, y \cos(yz) \rangle$

(b) $\vec{F}(x, y, z) = yz\hat{i} + xz\hat{j}$

2. Consider the magnetic field due to a straight wire carrying a current I . In cylindrical coordinates with the z -axis running along the wire, this is

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \hat{\theta}.$$

- (a) Show that the curl of this magnetic field is $\vec{0}$ for $\vec{r} \neq 0$.
- (b) Show that $-\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \arctan\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$ is a potential function for this field.
- (c) Evaluate $\oint_C \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$ where C is the circle of radius 1 in the xy -plane centered at $(x, y) = (0, 3)$ by parametrizing the curve.
- (d) Explain why the result in (c) is exactly the result guaranteed by the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus for Line Integrals.
- (e) Evaluate $\oint_C \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s}$ where C is the circle of radius 1 in the xy -plane centered at $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ by parametrizing the curve.
- (f) Carefully explain why the result in part (e) does or does not contradict the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus for Line Integrals.