Line Integrals of Vector Fields

In lecture, Professor Auroux discussed the non-conservative vector field

$$\mathbf{F} = \langle -y, x \rangle.$$

For this field:

1. Compute the line integral along the path that goes from (0,0) to (1,1) by first going along the x-axis to (1,0) and then going up one unit to (1,1).

2. Compute the line integral along the path from (0,0) to (1,1) that first goes up the *y*-axis to (0,1).

3. Should you expect your answers to the preceding problems to be the same? Why or why not?

4. Compute the line integral of \mathbf{F} along a path that runs counterclockwise around the unit circle.

5. Should your answer to the previous problem be 0? Why or why not?

Answer the following questions for the field

$$\mathbf{F} = \langle 0, x \rangle.$$

6. Compute the line integral along the path that goes from (0,0) to (1,1) by first going along the x-axis to (1,0) and then going up one unit to (1,1).

7. Compute the line integral along the path from (0,0) to (1,1) which first goes up the *y*-axis to (0,1).

8. Compute the line integral of \mathbf{F} along the line segment from (0,0) to (1,1).

9. Is the vector field $\mathbf{F} = \langle 0, x \rangle$ conservative? How do you know?

MIT OpenCourseWare http://ocw.mit.edu

18.02SC Multivariable Calculus Fall 2010

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: http://ocw.mit.edu/terms.