

1[3P]) Find the gradient vector field corresponding to the potential function  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$ .

**Solution:** The gradient is

$$\nabla\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \left\langle \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial x}(\mathbf{x}), \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial y}(\mathbf{x}), \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial z}(\mathbf{x}) \right\rangle .$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2} \\ &= \frac{-1}{2} \cdot 2x \cdot (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-3/2} \\ &= -\frac{x}{(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2})^3} . \end{aligned}$$

Then doing the same calculation for the other variables shows that

$$\nabla\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \left\langle -\frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}, -\frac{y}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}, -\frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right\rangle = -\frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^3}$$

2[3.5P]) Evaluate the line integral  $\int_C xy \, ds$  where  $C$  is the arc of the parabola  $y = x^2$  from  $(-1, 1)$  to  $(1, 1)$ .

**Solution:** We use  $x$  as parameter, so the curve is described by  $C: x = x, y = x^2, -1 \leq x \leq 1$ , and  $ds = \sqrt{1 + 4x^2} \, dx$ . The integral is therefore

$$\int_C xy \, ds = \int_{-1}^1 x^3 \sqrt{1 + 4x^2} \, dx .$$

The function  $x \mapsto x^3 \sqrt{1 + 4x^2}$  is odd and we integrate from  $-1$  to  $1$ . Hence the integral is zero. The final answer is therefor

$$\underline{\int_C xy \, ds = 0 .}$$

3[3.5P]) Evaluate the line integral  $\int_C xy \, dx + (x - y) \, dy$  where  $C$  consists of the line segment from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(1, 2)$ .

**Solution:** The line segment can be parametrized as

$$x = t, y = 2t, 0 \leq t \leq 1 .$$

Then  $dx = dt$  and  $dy = 2dt$ . The integral is therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\int_C xy \, dx + (x - y) \, dy &= \int_0^1 (t \cdot 2t + 2(t - 2t)) \, dt \\ &= \int_0^1 2t^2 - 2t \, dt \\ &= \left[ \frac{2t^3}{3} - t^2 \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{2}{3} - 1 \\ &= -1/3.\end{aligned}$$

The final answer is therefore

$$\underline{\int_C xy \, dx + (x - y) \, dy = -1/3.}$$