

Quiz Solution. 4:30 Lwo Yamkeng

Show that the line integral $\int_C y^3 dx + 3xy^2 dy$ is independent of path and evaluate the integral if C is any path from $(0,0)$ to $(2,4)$

Proof: If $P(x,y) = y^3$, $Q(x,y) = 3xy^2$

$$P_y = 3y^2, Q_x = 3y^2, P_y = Q_x$$

$\therefore \int_C y^3 dx + 3xy^2 dy$ is independent of path.

Sol. Suppose, $\nabla f = \langle P, Q \rangle$

then $f_x = y^3$, $f_y = 3xy^2$

$\therefore f = xy^3 + h(y)$ by integrating f_x

then $f_y = 3xy^2 + h'(y)$

Compared to $f_y = 3xy^2$, $h'(y) = 0$, hence $h(y)$ is constant.

$$\therefore f(x,y) = xy^3 + C \quad (C \text{ is a constant})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_C y^3 dx + 3xy^2 dy &= f(2,4) - f(0,0) \\ &= 2 \times 4^3 - 0 \\ &= 128 \end{aligned}$$