

An example for Green's Theorem with discontinuous partial derivatives

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Statement of Green's Theorem

Theorem (G. Green, \approx 1828)

On an open subset $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, let $\vec{F} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be a vector field with components $\vec{F}(x, y) = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))$.

Then, for any closed rectangle R contained in Ω ,

$$\int_{\partial R} \vec{F} = \int_R \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right).$$

Proof of Green's Theorem

Proof.

For $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{x=a}^{x=b} P(x, c) dx + \int_{y=c}^{y=d} Q(b, y) dy \\ & - \int_{x=a}^{x=b} P(x, d) dx - \int_{y=c}^{y=d} Q(a, y) dy \\ = & \int_{y=c}^{y=d} \left(\int_{x=a}^{x=b} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} dx \right) dy - \int_{x=a}^{x=b} \left(\int_{y=c}^{y=d} \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} dy \right) dx. \end{aligned}$$



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Nope.

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Remark

Nope. Something's wrong. Let's go back to the statement of the Theorem.

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False!

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False! What's missing?

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Remark

This is the usual calculus textbook statement of Green's Theorem.

Statement of Green's Theorem

Theorem (G. Green, \approx 1828; P. Cohen, U. Chicago Thesis, \approx 1958)

On an open subset $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, let $\vec{F} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be a vector field with components $\vec{F}(x, y) = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))$.

If P and Q are continuous on Ω , and the partial derivatives $\frac{\partial P}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}$ all **exist** at every point in Ω except for countably many, and $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$,
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Proof.

Difficult — comparable to the Looman-Menchoff Theorem in complex analysis. ■

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Theorem (**Green's Theorem**, in **Bruna** and Cufí, *Complex Analysis*)

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Proof.

Not as difficult — comparable to the Cauchy-Goursat Theorem in complex analysis.

Differentiable means: can be locally approximated by a linear function.

\implies all partial derivatives exist, but not conversely. ■

How about an example?

Is there some $\vec{F} = (P, Q)$ so that P and Q are differentiable, and $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ is continuous, but at least one of the partial derivatives $\frac{\partial P}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}$ is discontinuous?

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So the **Bruna-Cufí** version of **Green's** Theorem applies, but the usual calculus textbook version does not.

1-dimensional analogue: $f(x) = x^2 \sin(1/x^2)$ is differentiable with $f(0) = f'(0) = 0$, but $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f'(x)$ does not exist: f' is not locally bounded.

Example 1

Let $\Omega =$ unit disk in \mathbb{R}^2 . $\vec{F}(x, y) = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))$.
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$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)} + \frac{y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \cdot \frac{-1}{\sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)}}$$

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Remark

Close!

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Close! Cohen's version of Green's Theorem applies. But $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$ DNE at $(0, 0)$.

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Close! Cohen's version of Green's Theorem applies. But $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$ DNE at $(0, 0)$. $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ has a removable discontinuity.

Graphics by Maple 18

Plotting \vec{F} as a vector field:

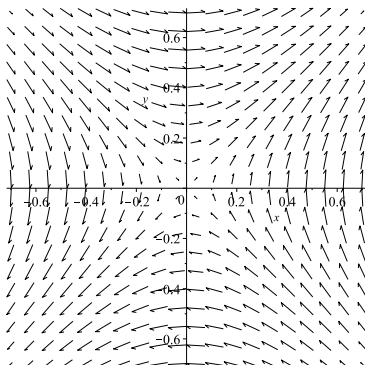


Figure: `fieldplot([P, Q], x = -.7 .. .7, y = -.7 .. .7);`

Graphics by Maple 18

Plotting the magnitude $\|\vec{F}\|$ as a scalar:

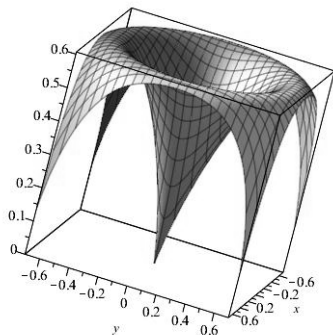


Figure: `plot3d(sqrt(P^2+Q^2), x = -.7 .. .7, y = -.7 .. .7);`

Plotting the partial derivatives as scalars:

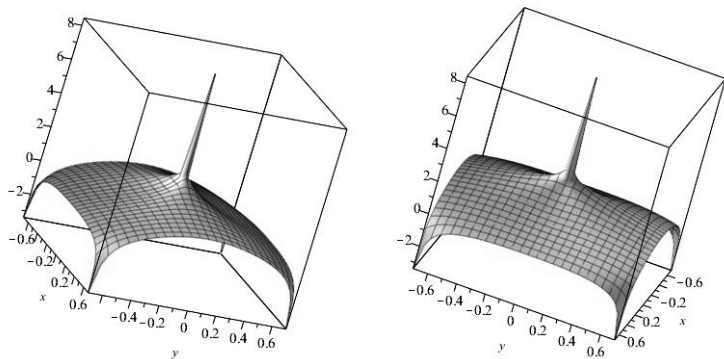


Figure: `plot3d(diff(P,y), x = -.7 .. .7, y = -.7 .. .7);`
`plot3d(diff(Q,x), x = -.7 .. .7, y = -.7 .. .7);`

Graphics by Maple 18

Plotting $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ as a scalar:

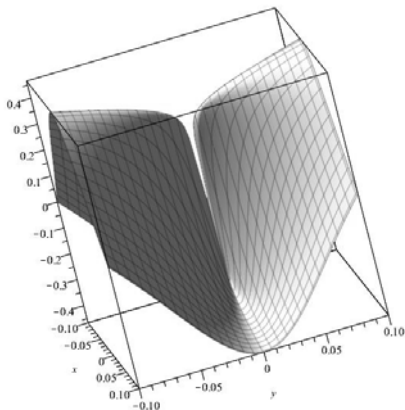


Figure: `plot3d(diff(Q,x)-(diff(P,y)),x=-.1 .. .1,y=-.1 .. .1);`

Example 2

We want to modify Example 1 to get differentiable P and Q , so $\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$ exist everywhere, but are discontinuous, while $\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$ is continuous.

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STEP 1: Introduce a parameter $0 < t < \frac{1}{2}$:

$$\vec{F}_t(x, y) = (P_t(x, y), Q_t(x, y)).$$

$$\vec{F}_t(0, 0) = (0, 0),$$

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$$P_t = y\sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)} \cdot (x^2 + y^2)^t$$

$$Q_t = x\sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)} \cdot (x^2 + y^2)^t$$

so Example 1 is the $t \rightarrow 0^+$ limit.

Example 2

P_t and Q_t are \mathcal{C}^1 (\implies differentiable) with $\left. \frac{\partial P_t}{\partial y} \right]_{(0,0)} = \left. \frac{\partial Q_t}{\partial x} \right]_{(0,0)} = 0$,

and:

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$$\frac{\partial P_t}{\partial y} = \sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)}(x^2 + y^2)^t - \frac{y^2(1 + 2t \ln(x^2 + y^2))}{(x^2 + y^2)^{1-t} \cdot \sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)}}$$

$$\frac{\partial Q_t}{\partial x} = \sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)}(x^2 + y^2)^t - \frac{x^2(1 + 2t \ln(x^2 + y^2))}{(x^2 + y^2)^{1-t} \sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)}}$$

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Let $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$.

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Let $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$. Max. Value of $f(r) = \sqrt{-\ln(r^2)}r^{2t}$ is $f(e^{-\frac{1}{4t}}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2et}}$.

Example 2

STEP 2: Multiply by a smooth “cutoff.” Define $\kappa : (0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, 1]$ to be a weakly decreasing, C^∞ function:

$$\kappa(r) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } 0 < r < 0.5 \\ 0 & \text{for } r > 0.6 \end{cases}$$

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$\vec{F}_t(x, y) = (P_t(x, y), Q_t(x, y))$, now with domain \mathbb{R}^2
 $\vec{F}_t(0, 0) = (0, 0)$,

$$P_t = y\sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)} \cdot (x^2 + y^2)^t \cdot \kappa(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})$$

$$Q_t = x\sqrt{-\ln(x^2 + y^2)} \cdot (x^2 + y^2)^t \cdot \kappa(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})$$

Still C^1 , with large $\frac{\partial P_t}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial Q_t}{\partial x}$ just off-center for small t .

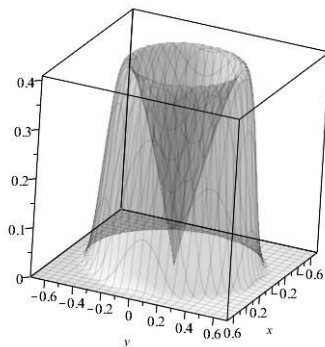
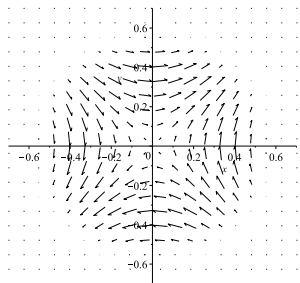


Figure: Plotting the vector field and its magnitude

STEP 3: Pick any sequence of disjoint disks in Quadrant I, with center (R_k, R_k) and radius $0 < r_k < \frac{R_k}{\sqrt{2}}$, so that $R_k \rightarrow 0^+$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$

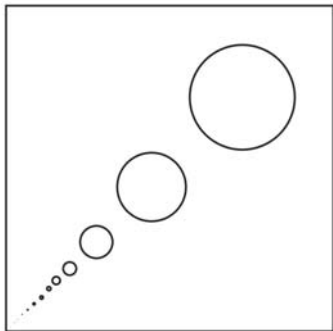


Figure: non-overlapping disks approaching the origin in \mathbb{R}^2

STEP 4: Re-scale x , y , z directions in the graph of \vec{F}_t by the same factor, r_k , by the formula: $r_k \vec{F}_t\left(\frac{x}{r_k}, \frac{y}{r_k}\right)$

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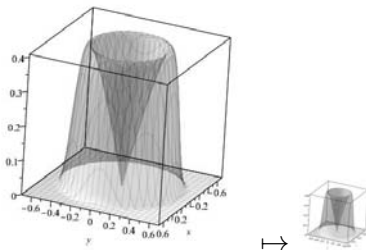


Figure: shrinking the domain and the height

The same large $\frac{\partial P_t}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial Q_t}{\partial x}$ just off-center for small t .

Example 2

STEP 5: Last step! For each $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, re-center a shrunken \vec{F}_t onto disk # k with center R_k , with $t = 2^{-4k} \rightarrow 0^+$.

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Also shrink the height again by a factor of 2^{-k} , so that $\frac{\partial \mathbf{P}}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial x}$ have max.

value $2^{-k} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2et}} = \frac{2^k}{\sqrt{2e}} \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\vec{\mathbf{F}}(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} r_k \vec{F}_{2^{-4k}} \left(\frac{x - R_k}{r_k}, \frac{y - R_k}{r_k} \right)$$

Example 2

STEP 5: Last step! For each $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, re-center a shrunken \vec{F}_t onto disk $\#k$ with center R_k , with $t = 2^{-4k} \rightarrow 0^+$.

Also shrink the height again by a factor of 2^{-k} , so that $\frac{\partial \mathbf{P}}{\partial y}$, $\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial x}$ have max.

value $2^{-k} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2et}} = \frac{2^k}{\sqrt{2e}} \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\vec{F}(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} r_k \vec{F}_{2^{-4k}} \left(\frac{x - R_k}{r_k}, \frac{y - R_k}{r_k} \right)$$

Exercise

Still need to check:

- $\vec{F} = (\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})$ is differentiable everywhere, including the origin.
- $\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \mathbf{P}}{\partial y}$ is continuous everywhere, including the origin.

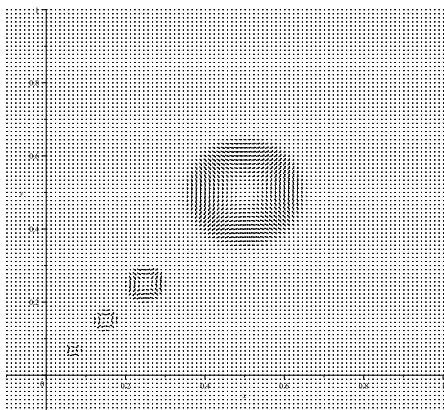








Figure: Easy to check partial derivatives exist at origin because $\vec{F} \equiv 0$ along axes!

References

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