

Section 3.4: GREEN'S IDENTITIES

As students study the integration identities in the multi-dimensional calculus, the chief applications they see for these formulas are likely in the computation of work along a path, or flux through a solid, or rotation of a surface. In this section, we will show that these identities may be used to derive the formulas which are used to study other physical phenomena. Also, one of the Green's identities is a multi-dimensional version of integration-by-parts. Recalling that integration-by-parts played such an important role in defining the adjoint of differential operators, it is no surprise that the corresponding identity plays a similar role here.

THEOREM (GREEN'S FIRST IDENTITY) Suppose that D is a region in the plane with a piecewise smooth boundary and that U and V have continuous second partial derivatives. Then,

$$\int_D V \nabla^2 U \, dA + \int_{\partial D} \langle \nabla V, \mathbf{U} \rangle \, ds = \int_D \langle \nabla V, \mathbf{U} \rangle \, ds.$$

Suggestion for proof: We will use the Divergence theorem. Let $\mathbf{P} = V \mathbf{U}_x$ and $\mathbf{Q} = V \mathbf{U}_y$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{y} &= V U_{xx} + V_x U_x + V U_{yy} + V_y U_y \\ &= \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} + \langle \nabla V, \mathbf{U} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Is it clear how this is an application of the Divergence Theorem?

REMARK: Just as the divergence theorem generalizes the fundamental theorem of integral calculus, so Green's First Identity generalizes the integration-by-parts formulas: take $V(x,y) = f(x)$ and $U(x,y) = g(x)$ on the rectangle $[a,b] \times [c,d]$. then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_D V \nabla^2 U \, dA + \int_{\partial D} \langle \nabla U, \mathbf{V} \rangle \, ds \\ &= \int_D f(x) \nabla^2 g(x) \, dA + \int_{\partial D} \langle \{f, 0\}, \{g, 0\} \rangle \, ds \\ &= (d-c) \left[\int_a^b f(x) g''(x) \, dx + \int_a^b f'(x) g'(x) \, dx \right]. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\int_{\partial D} \langle \nabla V, \mathbf{U} \rangle \, ds = (d-c) [f(b) g'(b) - f(a) g'(a)].$$

THEOREM (GREEN'S SECOND IDENTITY) With D , U , and V as before

$$\int_D [\nabla^2 U V - U \nabla^2 V] \, dA = \int_{\partial D} [U \nabla V - U \nabla V] \cdot \mathbf{n} \, ds.$$

Suggestion of a proof. $\int_D [2U \cdot V - U \cdot 2V] dA$

$= \int_D [U \cdot V - U \cdot V] dA = \int_D [U \cdot V - U \cdot V] ds$. This last equality is a result of the divergence theorem. $\int f$

EXERCISE

(1) In the same sense that the Divergence Theorem generalizes the fundamental theorem of integral calculus, and the Green's First Theorem generalizes integration-by-parts, show that Green's Second Theorem leads

$$\int_a^b f(x) g(x) dx - \int_a^b f(x) g'(x) dx = [f(b)g(b) - f(a)g(a)] - [f(b)g'(b) - f(a)g'(a)].$$

Hint for 1. Take D to be the rectangle with vertices at $[a,0]$, $[b,0]$, $[b,1]$, and $[a,1]$. Take U to be $[f(x),0]$ and V to be $[g(x),0]$. Use Green's second identity. recall that ds is arclength.

(2) A. Find a matrix A , a vector B , and a number C such that

$$[\text{blank} + \{4,5\}] u = A u + B u + Cu.$$

B. Suppose that D is a region in the plane with a piecewise smooth boundary. Fill in the blank:

$$\int_D ([\text{blank} + \{4,5\}] u) dA = \int_D [\text{blank}].$$

(3) A. Find F such that

$$\left[3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x^2} + 5 \frac{\partial u}{\partial y^2}\right] v - u \left[3 \frac{\partial v}{\partial x^2} + 5 \frac{\partial v}{\partial y^2}\right] = F.$$

Hint. The left side is $-\frac{u}{x} \left[3 \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - 3 u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right] + \frac{u}{y} \left[5 \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - 5 u \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right]$.

B. Suppose that D is a region in the plane with a piecewise smooth boundary. Fill in the blank:

$$\int_D \left(\left[3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x^2} + 5 \frac{\partial u}{\partial y^2}\right] v - u \left[3 \frac{\partial v}{\partial x^2} + 5 \frac{\partial v}{\partial y^2}\right] \right) dA = \int_D [\text{blank}].$$

Hint. Use the Divergence Theorem.

(4) A. Suppose that A is a matrix, B is a vector, and C is a number.

Let $L[u] = A u + B u + Cu$

and $M[v] = A v - B v + Cv.$

Find F such that $L[u] v - u M[v] = F$.