## Stokes's theorem

Stokes's theorem equates a surface integral of the curl of a function with a line integral of the same function. In rectangular coordinates the equivalence is

$$\iint_{S} (\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F}) \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d\sigma = \oint (P \, dx + Q \, dy + R \, dz)$$

where  $\mathbf{F} = (P, Q, R)$ . For S parametrized by x and y we have

$$\mathbf{n} \, d\sigma = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial x} \times \frac{\partial S}{\partial y}\right) dx \, dy$$

For example, let  $\mathbf{F} = (y, z, x)$  and let S be the part of the paraboloid  $z = 4 - x^2 - y^2$  that is above the xy plane. The perimeter of the paraboloid is the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 2$ . The following script computes both the surface and line integrals. Polar coordinates are used for the line integral so that defint can succeed.

```
"Surface integral"
z = 4 - x^2 - y^2
F = (y,z,x)
S = (x,y,z)
z = quote(z) - clear z for use by curl
f = dot(curl(F),cross(d(S,x),d(S,y)))
x = r \cos(\text{theta})
y = r sin(theta)
defint(f r, r, 0, 2, theta, 0, 2 pi)
"Line integral"
x = 2 \cos(t)
y = 2 \sin(t)
z = 4 - x^2 - y^2
P = y
Q = z
R = x
f = P d(x,t) + Q d(y,t) + R d(z,t)
f = circexp(f)
defint(f, t, 0, 2 pi)
```

This is the result when the script runs. Both the surface integral and the line integral yield the same result.

Surface integral  $-4\pi$ Line integral  $-4\pi$