Example 1

Evaluate $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$, where $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z) = -y^2\,\mathbf{i} + x\,\mathbf{j} + z^2\,\mathbf{k}$ and C is the curve of intersection of the plane $y + z = 2$ and the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 1$. (Orient C to be counterclockwise when viewed from above.)

Solution:

The curve C (an ellipse) is shown in Figure 3.

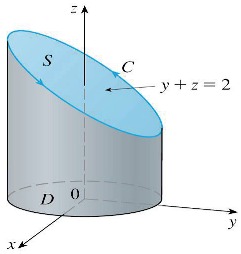

Figure 3

Example 1 – *Solution*

cont'd

Although $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$ could be evaluated directly, it's easier to use Stokes' Theorem.

We first compute

$$\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \dfrac{\partial}{\partial x} & \dfrac{\partial}{\partial y} & \dfrac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ -y^2 & x & z^2 \end{vmatrix} = (1 + 2y)\,\mathbf{k}$$

Although there are many surfaces with boundary C, the most convenient choice is the elliptical region S in the plane $y + z = 2$ that is bounded by C.

Example 1 – *Solution*

cont'd

If we orient S upward, then C has the induced positive orientation.

The projection D of S onto the xy-plane is the disk $x^2 + y^2 \le 1$ and so using equation

$$\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \iint_D \left(-P\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} - Q\frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + R \right) dA$$

with $z = g(x, y) = 2 - y$, we have

$$\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \iint_S \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \iint_D (1 + 2y)\, dA$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 (1 + 2r \sin\theta)\, r\, dr\, d\theta$$

Example 1 – *Solution*

cont'd

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \left[\frac{r^2}{2} + 2\frac{r^3}{3} \sin\theta \right]_0^1 d\theta$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\tfrac{1}{2} + \tfrac{2}{3} \sin\theta \right) d\theta$$

$$= \tfrac{1}{2}(2\pi) + 0$$

$$= \pi$$