

Examples of Degree Calculations.

Example 1. Let $V(x,y) = (-y,x)$, and $\gamma(t) = (\cos t, \sin t)$ for t in $[0, 2\pi]$. Find degree of γ wrt V .

In this example we let $F(x,y) = -y = -\sin t$, and $G(x,y) = x = \cos t$.

We shall integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$.

As luck would have it $F^2 + G^2 = (-\sin t)^2 + (\cos t)^2 = 1$, and

$$G' = (\cos t)' = -\sin t.$$

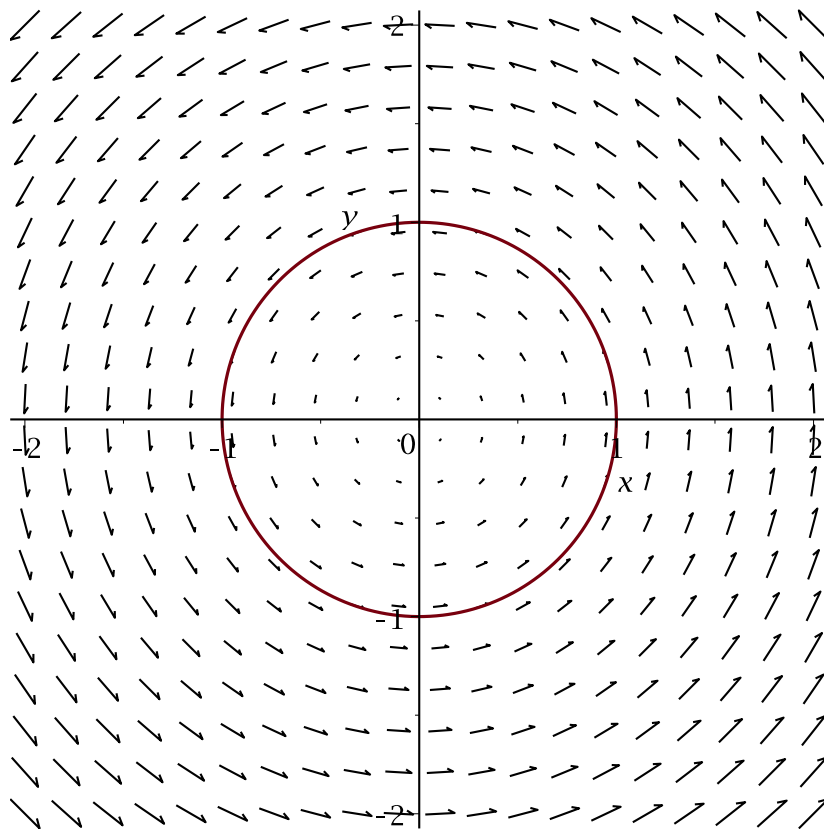
$$F' = (-\sin t)' = -\cos t.$$

$$\text{Thus, } G'F - GF' = ((-\sin t)(-\sin t) - (\cos t)(-\cos t)) = 1.$$

Thus, the degree is, the integral of $1/1$ from 0 to 2π , divided by 2π , which is 1 .

Below is a plot of the vector field and the curve γ .

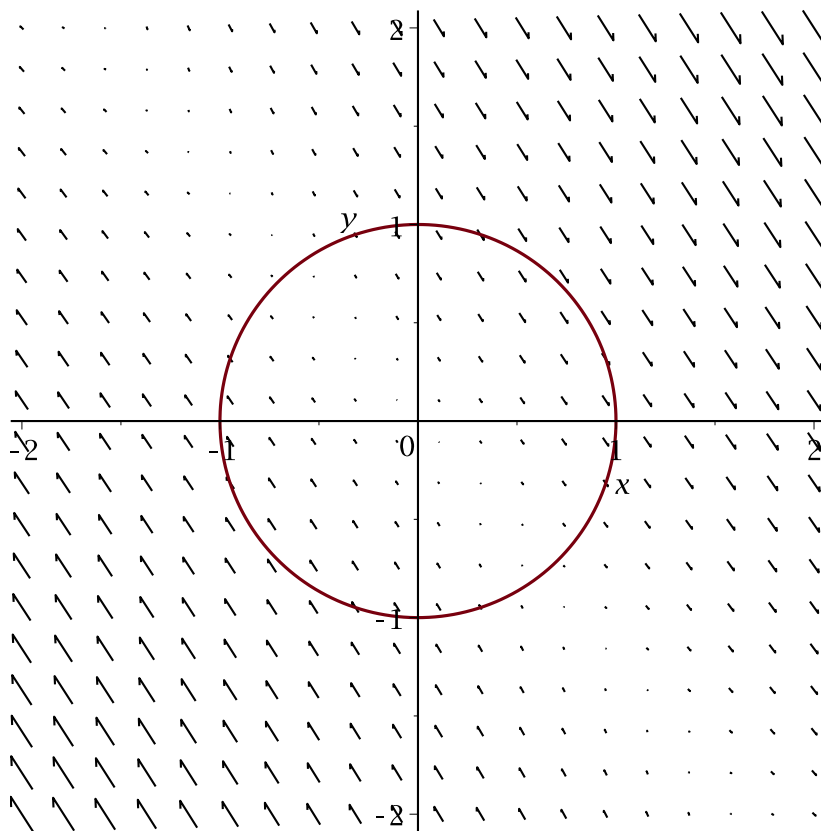
```
> vf:=fieldplot([-y,x],x=-2..2,y=-2..2):g:=plot([cos(t),sin(t),t=0.  
  .2*Pi]):display(vf,g);
```



Example 2. Let $V(x,y) = (4x+3y, -6x-5y)$ and $\gamma(t) = \text{unit circle} = (\cos t, \sin t)$. Find the degree of γ wrt V .

This time I did the plot first.

```
> vf:=fieldplot([4*x+3*y,-6*x-5*y],x=-2..2,y=-2..2):g:=plot([cos
(t),sin(t),t=0..2*Pi]):display(vf,g);
```



This looks fishy, like there might zeros of V on γ . But, if you check you will see that the eigenvalues of V are 1 and -2. So, $(0,0)$ is a saddle, an isolated critical point.

Now $F(t) = 4 \cos t + 3 \sin t$, so $F' = -4 \sin t + 3 \cos t$.
And, $G(t) = -6 \cos t - 5 \sin t$, so $G' = 6 \sin t - 5 \cos t$.

We shall integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$. and divide by 2π . We do this with the computer next.

```
> int( ((6*sin(t)-5*cos(t))*(4*cos(t)+3*sin(t))-(-6*cos(t)-5*sin(t))
      *(-4*sin(t)+3*cos(t)))/((4*cos(t)+3*sin(t))^2+(-6*cos(t)-5*sin
      (t))^2), t=0..2*Pi)/(2*Pi);
```

-1

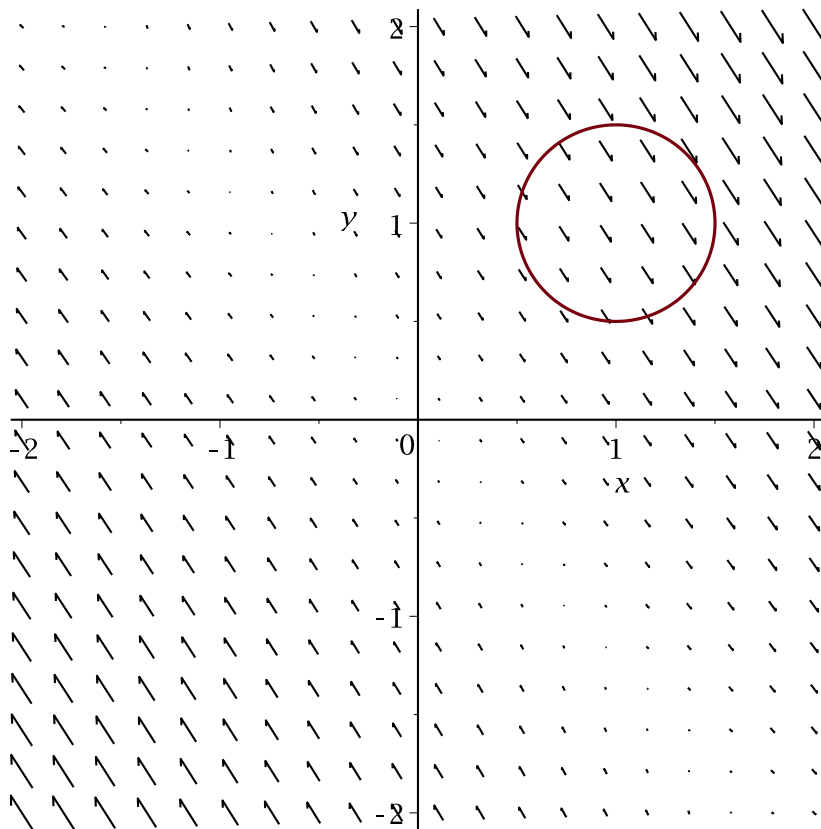
(1)

Thus, the degree is -1 as expected.

Example 3. Use the same vector field as in Example 2, but let γ be the circle centered at $(1,1)$ with radius $1/2$.

Let $\gamma(t) = (\cos(t)/2 + 1, \sin(t)/2 + 1)$. A plot is below.

```
> vf:=fieldplot([4*x+3*y,-6*x-5*y],x=-2..2,y=-2..2):g:=plot([cos(t)/2 + 1,sin(t)/2 + 1,t=0..2*Pi]):display(vf,g);
```



Now $F(t) = 4 (\cos(t)/2 + 1) + 3(\sin(t)/2 + 1) = 7 + 2 \cos t + 1.5 \sin t$, and $G(t) = (-6(\cos(t)/2 + 1) - 5(\sin(t)/2 + 1)) = -11 - 3 \cos t - 2.5 \sin t$.

Thus $F'(t) = -2 \sin t + 1.5 \cos t$ and $G'(t) = 3 \sin t - 2.5 \cos t$.

We shall integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$. It would be hard to do this integral by hand, so I'll use the computer,

```
> int ( ((3*sin(t) - 2.5*cos(t))*(7 + 2*cos(t) + 1.5*sin(t)) - (-11 - 3*cos(t) - 2.5*sin(t))*(-2*sin(t) + 1.5*cos(t)))/((7 + 2*cos(t) + 1.5*sin(t))^2 + (-11 - 3*cos(t) - 2.5*sin(t))^2), t=0..2*Pi)/(2*Pi);
```

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} ((3 \sin(t) - 2.5 \cos(t)) (7 + 2 \cos(t) + 1.5 \sin(t)) - (-11 - 3 \cos(t) - 2.5 \sin(t)) (-2 \sin(t) + 1.5 \cos(t))) / ((7 + 2 \cos(t) + 1.5 \sin(t))^2 + (-11 - 3 \cos(t) - 2.5 \sin(t))^2) dt \right) \quad (2)$$

$$-11 - 3 \cos(t) - 2.5 \sin(t)^2) dt)$$

This computer program, Maple 17, simply could not do this integral. So, I told it to do a numerical estimate.

> evalf(%);

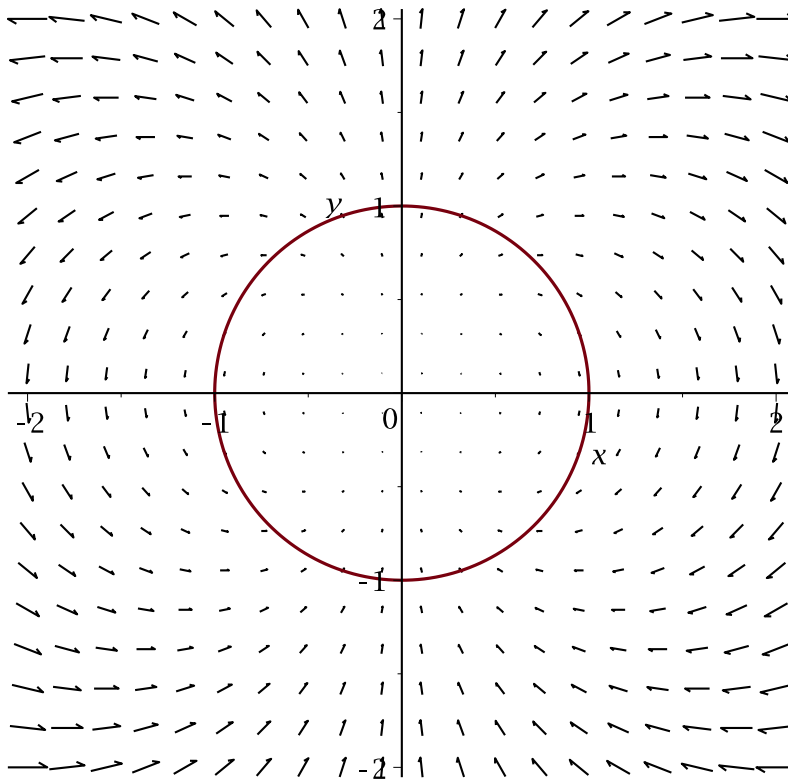
$$-3.582955588 \cdot 10^{-16}$$

(3)

We will call this 0.

Example 4. Let $V(x,y) = (2xy, y^2 - x^2)$. Let $\gamma(t) = (\cos t, \sin t)$. Find the degree of γ wrt V . The graph below shows we have a dipole field.

> vf:=fieldplot([2*x*y,y^2-x^2],x=-2..2,y=-2..2):g:=plot([cos(t), sin(t),t=0..2*Pi]):display(vf,g);



We have $F(t) = 2 \cos t \sin t = \sin 2t$. So, $F'(t) = 2 \cos (2t)$.

We have $G(t) = (\sin t)^2 - (\cos t)^2 = -\cos 2t$. So, $G'(t) = 2 \sin 2t$.
 Now $F^2 + G^2 = (\sin 2t)^2 + (-\cos 2t)^2 = 1$. Yea!
 And, $G'F - GF' = 2 (\sin 2t)^2 - (-\cos 2t)^2 (\cos 2t) = 2$. Yea!

Thus, the degree = $\int_0^{2\pi} (2/1) dt / 2\pi = 2$.

Example 5. Let $V(x,y) = (2x + y^2, x + y + xy)$. This was Example 1 in my lecture notes for Section 9.3. There it was shown that this vector field has three critical points, $(0, 0)$, $(-2, -2)$ and $(-1/2, 1)$. We shall verify the Poincaré Index Theorem by computing the index of each critical point and then find the degrees of various simple closed curves. Note: I did the plot for this example on a separate worksheet. You may want to be looking at it as you read this.

First we find the index of $(0,0)$. It is an unstable node, so we should get 1. A circle of radius 1, centered at $(0,0)$ will not contain any other critical points, so we will use this curve to find the index of $(0,0)$.

$F(t) = 2 \cos t + (\sin t)^2$, so $F'(t) = -2 \sin t + 2 \sin t \cos t = -2 \sin t + \sin 2t$.
 $G(t) = \cos t + \sin t + \cos t \sin t = \cos t + \sin t + 0.5 \sin 2t$, This, $G'(t) = -\sin t + \cos t + \cos 2t$.

Now we integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$, and divide by 2π .

```
> evalf(Int( ((-sin(t)+cos(t)+cos(2*t))*(2*cos(t)+sin(t)^2)-(cos(t)
+sin(t)+sin(2*t)/2)*(-2*sin(t)+sin(2*t)))/((2*cos(t)+sin(t)^2)^2+
(cos(t)+sin(t)+sin(2*t)/2)^2) ,t=0..2*Pi)/(2*Pi));
1.000000000 (4)
```

The answer is 1.

Next we find the index of $(-2,-2)$ using a circle of radius 1, centered at $(-2,-2)$. Thus, $\gamma(t) = (-2+\cos t, -2+\sin t)$. Recall it is a saddle, so we should get -1.

$F(t) = -4 + 2 \cos t + (-2 + \sin t)^2 = 2 \cos t - 4 \sin t + (\sin t)^2$. Thus, $F'(t) = -2 \sin t - 4 \cos t + 2 \sin t \cos t = -2 \sin t - 4 \cos t + \sin 2t$.

$G(t) = -2 + \cos t - 2 + \sin t + (-2 + \cos t)(-2 + \sin t) = -\cos t - \sin t + (\cos t)(\sin t) = -\cos t - \sin t + 0.5 \sin 2t$. Thus, $G'(t) = \sin t - \cos t + \cos 2t$.

Now we integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$ and divide by 2π .

```
> evalf(Int( ((sin(t)-cos(t)+cos(2*t))*(2*cos(t)-4*sin(t)+sin(t)^2)
-(-cos(t)-sin(t)+sin(2*t)/2)*(-2*sin(t)-4*cos(t)+sin(2*t))) / (
(2*cos(t)-4*sin(t)+sin(t)^2)^2+(-cos(t)-sin(t)+sin(2*t)/2)^2),t=
0..2*Pi)/(2*Pi));
-1.000000000 (5)
```

Yea!

Now we find the index of $(-1/2, 1)$. We will use a circle of radius 1, centered at $(-1/2, 1)$. Thus, $\gamma(t) = (-1/2 + \cos t, 1 + \sin t)$. This critical point was also a saddle.

$F(t) = -1 + 2 \cos t + (1 + \sin t)^2 = 2 \cos t + 2 \sin t + (\sin t)^2$. Thus $F'(t) = -2 \sin t + 2 \cos t + 2 \sin t \cos t = -2 \sin t + 2 \cos t + \sin 2t$.

$G(t) = -1/2 + \cos t + 1 + \sin t + (-1/2 + \cos t)(1 + \sin t) = 0 + 2 \cos t + 0.5 \sin t + (\cos t)(\sin t) = 2 \cos t + 0.5 \sin t + 0.5 \sin 2t$.

thus, $G'(t) = -2 \sin t + 0.5 \cos t + \cos 2t$.

Now we integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$ and divide by 2π .

```
> evalf(Int( ((-2*sin(t)+cos(t)/2+cos(2*t))*(2*cos(t)+2*sin(t)+sin
(t)^2)-(2*cos(t)+sin(t)/2+sin(2*t)/2)*(-2*sin(t)+2*cos(t)+sin(2*
t)))/((2*cos(t)+2*sin(t)+sin(t)^2)^2+(2*cos(t)+sin(t)/2+sin(2*t)
/2)^2), t=0..2*Pi)/(2*Pi));
-1.0000000000 (6)
```

Yea!

Now, if we choose a big circle centered at $(0,0)$ that contains all three critical points, the Poincare Index Theorem says we should get $1 - 1 - 1 = -1$.

Let $\gamma(t) = (3 \cos t, 3 \sin t)$ for t over $[0, 2\pi]$.

$F(t) = 6 \cos t + 9 (\sin t)^2$. Thus, $F'(t) = -6 \sin t + 18 \sin t \cos t = -6 \sin t + 9 \sin 2t$.

$G(t) = 3 \cos t + 3 \sin t + 9 \cos t \sin t = 3 \cos t + 3 \sin t + 4.5 \sin 2t$. Thus, $G'(t) = -3 \sin t + 3 \cos t + 9 \cos 2t$.

Now we integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$ and divide by 2π .

```
> evalf(Int( ( (-3*sin(t)+3*cos(t)+9*cos(2*t))*(6*cos(t)+9*sin(t)
^2)-(3*cos(t)+3*sin(t)+4.5*sin(2*t))*(-6*sin(t)+9*sin(2*t)) )/(
(6*cos(t)+9*sin(t)^2)^2+(3*cos(t)+3*sin(t)+4.5*sin(2*t))^2 ), t=
0..2*Pi)/(2*Pi));
-1.0000000000 (7)
```

If instead we used a circle of radius 2 centered at $(0,0)$, only $(0,0)$ and $(-1/2, 1)$ will be inside it and the degree should be $1 + -1 = 0$.

Let $\gamma(t) = (2 \cos t, 2 \sin t)$ for t over $[0, 2\pi]$.

$F(t) = 4 \cos t + 4 (\sin t)^2$. $F'(t) = -4 \sin t + 8 \sin t \cos t = -4 \sin t + 4 \sin 2t$.

$G(t) = 2 \cos t + 2 \sin t + 4 \cos t \sin t = 2 \cos t + 2 \sin t + 2 \sin 2t$. Thus, $G'(t) = -2 \sin t + 2 \cos t + 4 \cos 2t$.

Now we integrate $(G'F - GF')/(F^2 + G^2)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$ and divide by 2π .

```
> evalf(Int( ( (-2*sin(t)+2*cos(t)+4*cos(2*t))*(4*cos(t)+4*sin(t)
^2)-(2*cos(t)+2*sin(t)+2*sin(2*t))*(-4*sin(t)+4*sin(2*t)) )/( (4*
cos(t)+4*sin(t)^2)^2+(2*cos(t)+2*sin(t)+2*sin(2*t))^2 ), t=0..2*
Pi)/(2*Pi));
```

$7.841613390 \cdot 10^{-14}$

(8)

We can take this to be zero.

On a separate Maple worksheet I'll show a phase plot for this system of equations with the circle overlaid.