























Work, Force, and Potential Energy

$$W = \int_{\vec{r}_i}^{\vec{r}_f} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = -\Delta U = -(U_f - U_i)$$

path (or line) integral

where $\vec{F}=-\vec{
abla}U$ and such forces are *conservative*

Work and Kinetic Energy

$$W_{net} = \int_{\vec{r}_i}^{\vec{r}_f} \vec{F}_{net} \cdot d\vec{r} = \Delta K = (\mathbf{K}_f - K_i)$$

The Gradient

• Del acting on a scalar is called the gradient

$$\vec{\nabla}P(x, y, z) \equiv \hat{i}\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \hat{j}\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} + \hat{k}\frac{\partial P}{\partial z}$$

- $\vec{\nabla} P(x, y, z)$ points in the direction of maximum increase in the function P(x, y, z)
- $|\vec{\nabla}P(x, y, z)|$ gives the "slope" (rate of increase) along this maximal direction

Conservative Forces

• Conservative forces can be written as the *gradient* of some scalar function:

$$\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla}U = -\left(\hat{i}\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right)U = -\hat{i}\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} - \hat{j}\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} - \hat{k}\frac{\partial U}{\partial z}$$

• One can show that this is equivalent to any of the following:

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{F} = 0$$
 $\oint \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$
 $\int_{\vec{r}_1}^{\vec{r}_2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \text{ path independent}$

