

Math 311-102

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Reminder

The second examination is Thursday, June 23.



Change of variables in integrals

Example. $\int_0^1 \frac{2x}{1+x^2} dx = \int_1^2 \frac{du}{u} = \ln 2.$
(via the change of variable $u = 1 + x^2$).

What happens in higher dimensions?

“Change of variable” means “coordinate transformation”.

To see what happens, the place to start is with a linear transformation.

Linear functions

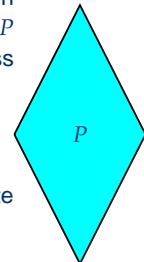
Example. Let S be the square of area 1 with vertices at $(0,0)$, $(1,0)$, $(1,1)$, and $(0,1)$ in uv space.

Let $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$, so the image of S in xy space is a parallelogram P . The area of P equals $|(\vec{i} - 2\vec{j}) \times (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j})|$, the length of the cross product, which equals 4.

Thus $\int_P dx dy = 4 = \int_S 4 du dv.$

The factor of 4 is the determinant of the coordinate transformation $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Summary. A linear transformation magnifies area by (the absolute value of) the determinant.



Jacobi's theorem

For any invertible coordinate transformation T (not necessarily linear) from a region R in uv space to xy space,
$$\iint_{T(R)} f(x, y) dx dy = \iint_R f(T(u, v)) |\det T'(u, v)| du dv$$
(and similarly for transformations in \mathbb{R}^3).

Example (polar coordinates). The Jacobian matrix of the coordinate transformation $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} r \cos \theta \\ r \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}$ equals

$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$, the determinant is r , so

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{x^2+y^2 \leq 1} \sqrt{x^2+y^2} dx dy &= \iint_{\substack{0 \leq r \leq 1 \\ 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi}} \sqrt{r^2 \cos^2 \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta} r dr d\theta \\ &= \int_0^1 r^2 dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi/3. \end{aligned}$$

Curvilinear coordinates

The notation for *cylindrical coordinates* in \mathbb{R}^3 is (r, θ, z) , where (r, θ) are polar coordinates in the xy plane. The volume element $dx dy dz$ transforms to $r dr d\theta dz$.

The notation for *spherical coordinates* in \mathbb{R}^3 depends on the age of the book and on the subject (mathematics or physics). The distance from a point to the origin is denoted by r or ρ . In modern mathematics books, θ denotes the same angle as in cylindrical coordinates and ϕ denotes the angle measured down from the z -axis. Older mathematics books and many physics and engineering books reverse the meanings of θ and ϕ .

The volume element $dx dy dz$ transforms to $r^2 \sin(\text{angle down from the } z\text{-axis}) dr d\theta d\phi$.