

## Section 7.3 Volumes by cylindrical shells

Lets find the volume  $V$  of a cylindrical shell with inner radius  $r_1$ , outer radius  $r_2$ , and height  $h$  (see Fig.1).

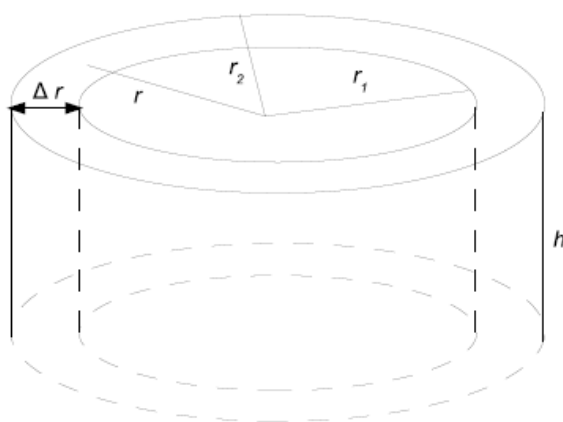


Fig.1

$V$  can be calculated by subtracting the volume  $V_1$  of the inner cylinder from the volume  $V_2$  of the outer cylinder:

$$V = V_2 - V_1 = \pi h(r_2^2 - r_1^2) = 2\pi h \frac{r_2 + r_1}{2} (r_2 - r_1) = V$$

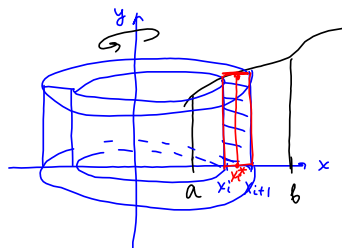
Let  $\Delta r = r_2 - r_1$ ,  $r = (r_2 + r_1)/2$ , then the volume of a cylindrical shell is

$$V = 2\pi r h \Delta r$$

$$V = [\text{circumference}][\text{height}][\text{thickness}]$$

$$V = 2\pi [\text{average radius}][\text{height}][\text{thickness}]$$

Now let  $S$  be the solid obtained by rotating about the  $y$ -axis the region bounded by  $y = f(x) \geq 0$ ,  $y = 0$ ,  $x = a$ , and  $x = b$ , where  $b > a \geq 0$ .



$y = f(x)$   
 approximate the part of the solid between  $x = x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$  by a cylindrical shell of height  $f(x_i^*)$

$x_i < x_i^* < x_{i+1}$

Volume of this shell is  $V_i = 2\pi \underbrace{f(x_i^*)}_{\text{height}} \underbrace{x_i^*}_{\text{average radius}} \Delta x_i$

Let  $P$  be a partition of  $[a, b]$  by points  $x_i$  such that  $a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b$  and let  $x_i^*$  be the midpoint of  $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$ , that is  $x_i^* = (x_{i-1} + x_i)/2$ . If the rectangle with base  $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$

1

and height  $f(x_i^*)$  is rotated about the  $y$ -axis, then the result is a cylindrical shell with average radius  $x_i^*$ , height  $f(x_i^*)$ , and thickness  $\Delta x_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$ , so its volume is  $V_i = 2\pi x_i^* f(x_i^*) \Delta x_i$ .

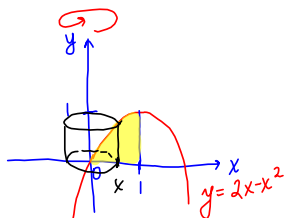
The approximation to the volume  $V$  of  $S$  is  $V \approx \sum_{i=1}^n 2\pi x_i^* f(x_i^*) \Delta x_i$ . This approximation appears to become better and better as  $\|P\| \rightarrow 0$ .

Thus, the volume of  $S$  is

$$V_Y = \lim_{\|P\| \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^n 2\pi x_i^* f(x_i^*) \Delta x_i = 2\pi \int_a^b x f(x) dx = V_Y$$

*radius of a shell* (pointing to  $x$ )  
*height of a shell* (pointing to  $f(x)$ )

**Example 1.** Find the volume of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by  $y = 2x - x^2$ ,  $y = 0$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  about the  $y$ -axis.



$0 \leq x \leq 1$

Pick  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ , do a vertical line through  $x$ . rotate the line about the  $y$ -axis.

[radius] =  $x$

[height] =  $2x - x^2$

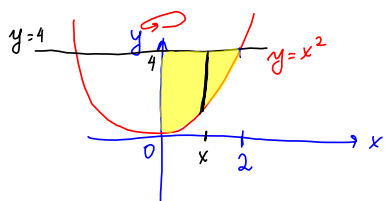
$$V = 2\pi \int_0^1 x(2x - x^2) dx = 2\pi \int_0^1 (2x^2 - x^3) dx$$

$$= 2\pi \left( \frac{2x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} \right)_0^1 = \boxed{2\pi \left( \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right)}$$

The volume of the solid generated by rotating about the  $y$ -axis the region between the curves  $y = f(x)$  and  $y = g(x)$  from  $a$  to  $b$  [ $f(x) \geq g(x)$  and  $0 \leq a < b$ ] is

$$V_Y = 2\pi \int_a^b \underbrace{x}_{\text{radius}} \underbrace{[f(x) - g(x)]}_{\text{height}} dx$$

**Example 2.** Find the volume of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by  $y = x^2$ ,  $y = 4$ ,  $x = 0$  about the  $y$ -axis,  $x > 0$ .



$$0 \leq x \leq 2$$

$$[\text{radius}] = x$$

$$[\text{height}] = [\text{top}] - [\text{bottom}] = 4 - x^2$$

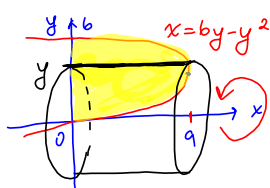
$$V = 2\pi \int_0^2 x(4 - x^2) dx = 2\pi \int_0^2 (4x - x^3) dx$$

$$= 2\pi \left( \frac{4x^2}{2} - \frac{x^4}{4} \right)_0^2 = 2\pi \left( 2(4) - \frac{16}{4} \right) = \boxed{8\pi}$$

The method of cylindrical shells also allows us to compute volumes of revolution about the  $x$ -axis. If we interchange the roles of  $x$  and  $y$  in the formula for the volume, then the volume of the solid generated by rotating the region bounded by  $x = g(y)$ ,  $x = 0$ ,  $y = c$ , and  $y = d$  about the  $x$ -axis, is

$$V_X = 2\pi \int_c^d yg(y)dy$$

**Example 3.** Find the volume of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by  $y^2 - 6y + x = 0$ ,  $x = 0$  about the  $x$ -axis.



$$x = 6y - y^2, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 6$$

Pick any  $0 \leq y \leq 6$ , do a horizontal line through  $y$ , rotate the line about the  $x$ -axis.

$$[\text{radius}] = y$$

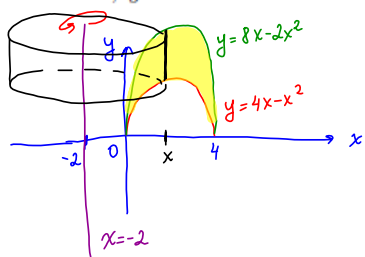
$$[\text{height}] = 6y - y^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} V &= 2\pi \int_0^6 y(6y - y^2) dy = 2\pi \int_0^6 (6y^2 - y^3) dy \\ &= 2\pi \left( \frac{6y^3}{3} - \frac{y^4}{4} \right) \Big|_0^6 = 2\pi \left( 2(6^3) - \frac{6^4}{4} \right) \\ &= 2\pi \left( 2(216) - \frac{1296}{4} \right) \end{aligned}$$

The volume of the solid generated by rotating the region bounded by  $x = g_1(y)$ ,  $x = g_2(y)$ ,  $y = c$ , and  $y = d$ , about the  $x$ -axis, assuming that  $g_2(y) \geq g_1(y)$  for all  $c \leq y \leq d$ , is

$$V_X = 2\pi \int_c^d y[g_2(y) - g_1(y)] dy$$

**Example 4.** Find the volume of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by  $y = 4x - x^2$ ,  $y = 8x - 2x^2$  about  $x = -2$ .



$$0 \leq x \leq 4$$

$$[\text{radius}] = 2 + x$$

$$[\text{height}] = 8x - 2x^2 - (4x - x^2) = 4x - x^2$$

$$V = 2\pi \int_0^4 (2+x)(4x-x^2) dx$$

$$= 2\pi \int_0^4 (8x - 2x^2 + 4x^2 - x^3) dx = 2\pi \int_0^4 (8x + 2x^2 - x^3) dx$$

$$= 2\pi \left( \frac{8x^2}{2} + \frac{2x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} \right)_0^4 = \boxed{2\pi \left( 4(16) + \frac{2}{3}(64) - \frac{256}{4} \right)}$$