

Chapter 15. Multiple integrals.  
Section 15.1 Double integrals over rectangles.

We would like to define the double integral of a function  $f$  of two variables that is defined on a closed rectangle

$$R = [a, b] \times [c, d] = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a \leq x \leq b, c \leq y \leq d\}$$

We take a partition  $P$  of  $R$  into subrectangles. This is accomplished by partitioning the intervals  $[a, b]$  and  $[c, d]$  as follows:

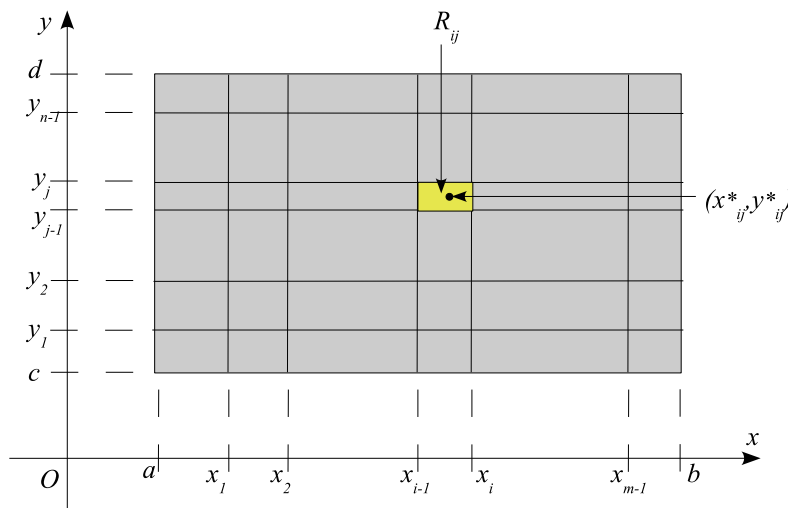
$$a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{m-1} < x_m = b$$

$$c = y_0 < y_1 < \dots < y_{n-1} < y_n = d$$

By drawing lines parallel to the coordinate axes through these partition points we form the subrectangles

$$R_{ij} = [x_{i-1}, x_i] \times [y_{j-1}, y_j]$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . There are  $mn$  of these subrectangles. If we let  $\Delta x_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$  and  $\Delta y_j = y_j - y_{j-1}$ , then the area of  $R_{ij}$  is  $\Delta A_{ij} = \Delta x_i \Delta y_j$ .



Next we choose a point  $(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*) \in R_{ij}$  and form the **double Riemann sum**

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*) \Delta A_{ij}$$

We denote by  $\|P\|$  the **norm** of the partition, which is the length of the longest diagonal of all the subrectangles  $R_{ij}$ .

**Definition.** The **double integral** of  $f$  over the rectangle  $R$  is

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \lim_{\|P\| \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*) \Delta A_{ij}$$

if the limit exists.

**Note 1.** In view of the fact that  $\Delta A_{ij} = \Delta x_i \Delta y_j$ , another notation that is used sometimes for the double integral is

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \iint_R f(x, y) dx dy$$

**Note 2.** A function  $f$  is called **integrable** if the limit in the definition exists.

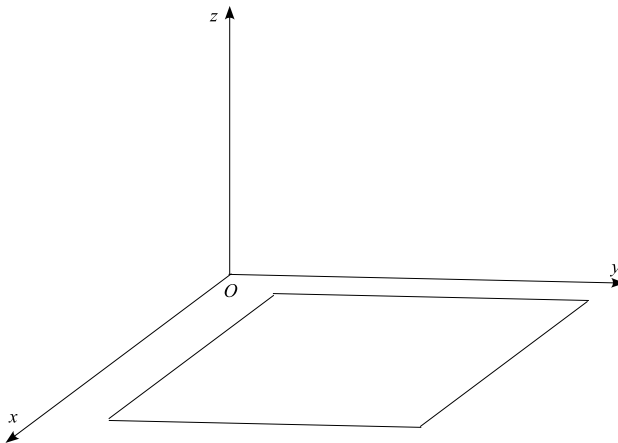
**Example 1.** Find an approximation to the integral

$$\iint_R (x - 3y^2) dA$$

where  $R = [0, 2] \times [1, 2]$ , by computing the double Riemann sum with partition lines  $x = 1$  and  $y = 3/2$  and taking  $(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*)$  to be the center of each rectangle.

Double integrals of positive functions can be interpreted as volumes. Suppose that  $f(x, y) \geq 0$  and  $f$  is defined on the rectangle  $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$ . The graph of  $f$  is a surface with equation  $z = f(x, y)$ . Let  $S$  be the solid that lies above  $R$  and under the graph of  $f$

$$S = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid 0 \leq z \leq f(x, y), (x, y) \in R\}$$



If we partition  $R$  into subrectangles  $R_{ij}$  and choose  $(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*)$  in  $R_{ij}$ , then we can approximate the part of  $S$  that lies above  $R_{ij}$  by a thin rectangular column with base  $R_{ij}$  and height  $f(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*)$ . The volume of the column is

$$V_{ij} = f(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*) \Delta A_{ij}$$

If we follow this procedure for all rectangles and add the volumes of the corresponding boxes, we get an approximation to the total volume of  $S$

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_{ij}^*, y_{ij}^*) \Delta A_{ij}$$

Approximation becomes better if we use a finer partition  $P$ .

**Theorem.** If  $f(x, y) \geq 0$  and  $f$  is continuous on the rectangle  $R$ , then the volume  $V$  of the solid that lie above  $R$  and under the surface  $z = f(x, y)$  is

$$V = \iint_R f(x, y) dA$$

**Example 2.** Evaluate the double integral

$$\iint_R (8 - 4y) dA,$$

where  $R = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  by first identifying it as the volume of a solid.

**Iterated integrals.**

Suppose  $f$  is a function of two variables that is integrable over the rectangle  $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$ .

We use notation  $\int_c^d f(x, y) dy$  to mean that  $x$  is held fixed and  $f(x, y)$  is integrated with respect to  $y$  from  $y = c$  to  $y = d$ . This procedure is called **partial integration with respect to  $y$** .

$$A(x) = \int_c^d f(x, y) dy$$

$$\int_a^b A(x) dx = \int_a^b \left[ \int_c^d f(x, y) dy \right] dx$$

The integral  $\int_a^b \left[ \int_c^d f(x, y) dy \right] dx$  is called an **iterated integral**. Thus,

$$\int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) dy dx = \int_a^b \left[ \int_c^d f(x, y) dy \right] dx$$

means that we first integrate with respect to  $y$  from  $c$  to  $d$  and then with respect to  $x$  from  $a$  to  $b$ .

Similarly, the iterated integral

$$\int_c^d \int_a^b f(x, y) dx dy = \int_c^d \left[ \int_a^b f(x, y) dx \right] dy$$

means that we first integrate with respect to  $x$  from  $a$  to  $b$  and then with respect to  $y$  from  $c$  to  $d$ .

**Example 1.** Evaluate the iterated integrals:

1.  $\int_0^3 \int_0^1 \sqrt{x+y} dx dy$

$$2. \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{xy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + 1}} dy dx$$

**Fubini's Theorem.** If  $f$  is continuous on the rectangle  $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$ , then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \int_c^d \int_a^b f(x, y) dx dy = \int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) dy dx$$

**Example 2.** Calculate the double integral

$$\iint_R \left( xy^2 + \frac{y}{x} \right) dA,$$

where  $R = \{(x, y) | 2 \leq x \leq 3, -1 \leq y \leq 0\}$ .

**Example 3.** Find the volume of the solid lying under the elliptic paraboloid  $\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} + z = 1$  and above the rectangle  $R = [-1, 1] \times [-2, 2]$ .