

Chapter 13. Multiple integrals.  
Section 13.5 Double integrals in polar coordinates.

We want to evaluate

$$\iint_R f(x, y) DA,$$

where  $R$  is a **polar rectangle**

$$R = \{(r, \theta) | a \leq r \leq b, \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta\}$$

We start with a partition of  $[a, b]$  into  $m$  subintervals

$$a = r_0 < r_1 < r_2 < \dots < r_m = b$$

and a partition of  $[\alpha, \beta]$  into  $n$  subintervals

$$\alpha = \theta_0 < \theta_1 < \theta_2 < \dots < \theta_n = \beta$$

Then the circles  $r = r_i$  and the rays  $\theta = \theta_j$  determine a **polar partition**  $P$  of  $R$  into the small polar rectangles. The norm  $\|P\|$  of the polar partition is the length of the longest diagonal of the polar subrectangles.

The “center“ of the polar subrectangle

$$R_{ij} = \{(r, \theta) | r_{i-1} \leq r \leq r_i, \theta_{j-1} \leq \theta \leq \theta_j\}$$

has polar coordinates

$$r_i^* = \frac{1}{2}(r_i + r_{i-1}) \quad \theta_j^* = \frac{1}{2}(\theta_j + \theta_{j-1})$$

The area of the rectangle  $R_{ij}$  is

$$A(R_{ij}) = \Delta A_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(r_i^2 - r_{i-1}^2)\Delta\theta_j = \frac{1}{2}(r_i + r_{i-1})(r_i - r_{i-1})\Delta\theta_j = r_i^* \Delta r_i \Delta\theta_j$$

where  $\Delta\theta_j = \theta_j - \theta_{j-1}$ ,  $\Delta r_i = r_i - r_{i-1}$ .

The Cartesian coordinates of the center of  $R_{ij}$  are

$$(r_i^* \cos \theta_j^*, r_i^* \sin \theta_j^*)$$

so a Riemann sum is

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(r_i^* \cos \theta_j^*, r_i^* \sin \theta_j^*) \Delta A_{ij} = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(r_i^* \cos \theta_j^*, r_i^* \sin \theta_j^*) r_i^* \Delta r_i \Delta \theta_j$$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_R f(x, y) dA &= \lim_{\|P\| \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(r_i^* \cos \theta_j^*, r_i^* \sin \theta_j^*) r_i^* \Delta r_i \Delta \theta_j = \iint_R f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r \, dr \, d\theta = \\ & \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \int_a^b f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r \, dr \, d\theta \end{aligned}$$

**Change to polar coordinates in a double integral.** If  $f$  is continuous on a polar rectangle  $R$  given by  $0 \leq a \leq r \leq b$ ,  $\alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta$ , where  $0 \leq \beta - \alpha \leq 2\pi$ , then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \int_a^b f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r \, dr \, d\theta$$

**Example 1.** Evaluate the integral

$$\iint_R xy dA$$

where  $R$  is the region in the first quadrant that lies between the circles  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$  and  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ .

If  $f$  is continuous on a polar region of the form

$$D = \{(r, \theta) | \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta, h_1(\theta) \leq r \leq h_2(\theta)\},$$

then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \int_{h_1(\theta)}^{h_2(\theta)} f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r \, dr d\theta$$

**Example 2.** Evaluate the integral

$$\iint_D x dA$$

where  $R$  is the region in the first quadrant that lies between the circles  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$  and  $x^2 + y^2 = 2x$ .

**Example 3.** Use a double integral to find the area of the region enclosed by the lemniscate  $r^2 = 4 \cos 2\theta$ .

**Example 4.** Use a double integral to find the area of the region inside the circle  $r = 3 \cos \theta$  and outside the cardioid  $r = 1 + \cos \theta$ .

**Example 5.** Use polar coordinates to find the volume above the cone  $z = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  and below the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ .