

15.8: Triple integrals in spherical coordinates

- Spherical coordinates of P is the ordered triple (ρ, θ, ϕ) where $|OP| = \rho$, $\rho \geq 0$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$.

$$\begin{aligned} |OP| &= \rho \\ x &= \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ y &= \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ z &= \rho \cos \phi \\ \rho \sin \phi &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \end{aligned}$$

The spherical coordinates

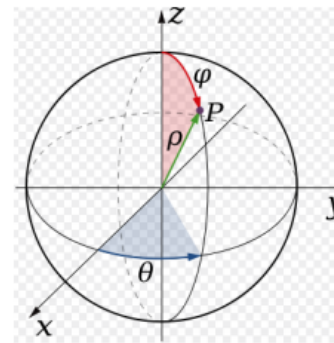
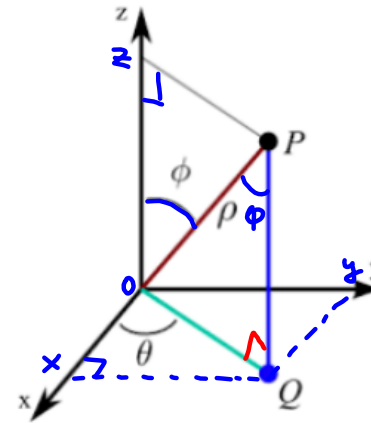
$$\begin{aligned} x &= \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ y &= \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ z &= \rho \cos \phi \\ \rho &\geq 0, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi \end{aligned}$$

are especially useful in problems where there is symmetry about the origin.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 + z^2 &= \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi + \rho^2 \cos^2 \phi \\ &= \rho^2 (\sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi) = \rho^2 \end{aligned}$$

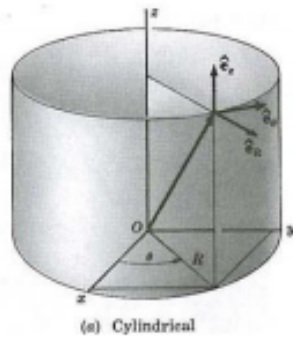
$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = \rho^2$$



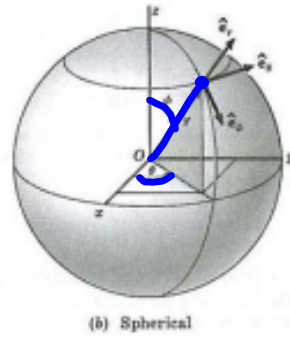
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 &= \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta + \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta \\ &= \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) \\ &= \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi \end{aligned}$$

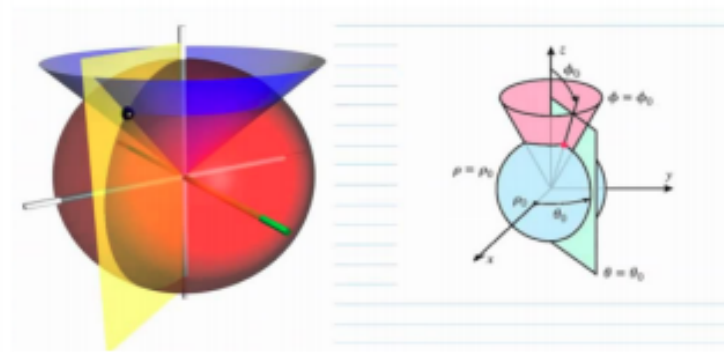
$$x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi$$



(a) Cylindrical



(b) Spherical



<https://i.stack.imgur.com/FgSBF.jpg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-RUZiBoBeE>

EXAMPLE 1. Find equation in spherical coordinates for the following surfaces.

(a) $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 16$

$$\rho^2 = 16$$

$$\rho = \pm 4, \rho > 0$$

$$\boxed{\rho = 4}$$

(b) $z = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$
cone

$$\left. \begin{aligned} z &= \rho \cos \varphi \\ x^2 + y^2 &= \rho^2 \sin^2 \varphi \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \rho \cos \varphi = \sqrt{\rho^2 \sin^2 \varphi}$$

$$\rho \cos \varphi = |\rho \sin \varphi|$$

But $\rho > 0$
and $\sin \varphi > 0$
($0 < \varphi < \pi$)

$$\cancel{\rho} \cos \varphi = \cancel{\rho} \sin \varphi$$

$$\tan \varphi = 1$$

$$\boxed{\varphi = \frac{\pi}{4}}$$

(c) $z = \sqrt{3x^2 + 3y^2} \Rightarrow z = \sqrt{3} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

$$\rho \cos \varphi = \sqrt{3} \rho \sin \varphi$$

$$\tan \varphi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \Rightarrow$$

$$\boxed{\varphi = \frac{\pi}{6}}$$

(d) $x = y$

$$\rho \sin \varphi \cos \theta = \rho \sin \varphi \sin \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \sin \theta$$

$$\tan \theta = 1 \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{\pi}{4} \text{ or } \theta = \frac{5\pi}{4}$$

• Triple integrals in spherical coordinates

$$x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta$$

$$y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta$$

$$z = \rho \cos \phi$$

$$\rho \geq 0, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$$

$$(x, y, z) \quad \rightarrow \quad (r, \theta, z) \quad \rightarrow \quad (\rho, \theta, \phi)$$

$$x = r \cos \theta \quad z = \rho \cos \phi$$

$$y = r \sin \theta \quad r = \rho \sin \phi$$

$$z = z \quad \theta = \theta$$

$$dV = dx dy dz = r dr dz d\theta = r \rho d\rho d\theta d\phi = \rho \sin \phi \rho d\rho d\theta d\phi$$

$$= \rho^2 \sin \phi d\rho d\theta d\phi$$

THEOREM 2. Let $f(x, y, z)$ be a continuous function over a solid $E \subset \mathbb{R}^3$. Let E^* be its image in spherical coordinates. Then

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \iiint_{E^*} f(\rho \sin \phi \cos \theta, \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta, \rho \cos \phi) \underbrace{\rho^2 \sin \phi}_{\text{Jacobian}} d\rho d\theta d\phi.$$

EXAMPLE 3. Evaluate $I = \iiint_E e^{\sqrt{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^3}} dV$ where $E = \{(x, y, z) : 9 \leq \underbrace{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}_{\rho^2} \leq 16\}$.

Apply spherical coordinates:

$$E^* = \{(\rho, \theta, \phi) \mid \underbrace{9 \leq \rho^2 \leq 16}_{\text{red}}, \rho \geq 0, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi\}$$

$$E^* = \{(\rho, \theta, \phi) \mid 3 \leq \rho \leq 4, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \iiint_{E^*} e^{\sqrt{(\rho^2)^3}} \rho^2 \sin \phi d\rho d\theta d\phi = \\ &= \left(\int_0^\pi \sin \phi d\phi \right) \cdot \left(\int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \right) \cdot \left(\int_3^4 e^{\rho^3} \rho^2 d\rho \right) = \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 4. Write the integral $\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV$ in spherical coordinates where

(a) $E = \{(x, y, z) : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 1, y \geq 0, z \geq 0\}$.

$$E^* = \{(p, \theta, \varphi) \mid \boxed{p^2 \leq 1}, \overset{z \geq 0}{p \sin \varphi \sin \theta \geq 0}, p \cos \varphi \geq 0, \boxed{p \geq 0}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi\}$$

$$E^* = \{(p, \theta, \varphi) \mid 0 \leq p \leq 1, \sin \theta \geq 0, \cos \varphi \geq 0, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi\}$$

$$E^* = \{(p, \theta, \varphi) \mid 0 \leq p \leq 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi, 0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi/2\}$$

$$I = \int_0^1 \int_0^\pi \int_0^{\pi/2} f(p \sin \varphi \cos \theta, p \sin \varphi \sin \theta, p \cos \varphi) p^2 \sin \varphi dp d\varphi d\theta$$

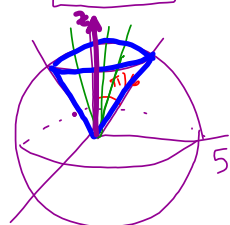


(b) E is the ice cream cone-shaped solid, which is cut from the sphere of radius 5 by the cone

$$\phi = \pi/6.$$

First way (using picture)

$$E^* = \{(p, \theta, \varphi) \mid 0 \leq p \leq 5, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi/6\}$$



↓ sphere
 $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 25$

$$z = \pm \sqrt{25 - x^2 - y^2}$$

cone $\varphi = \pi/6$ (see ex. 1)

$$z = \sqrt{3(x^2 + y^2)}$$

Second way

$$E = \{(x, y, z) \mid \sqrt{3(x^2 + y^2)} \leq z \leq \sqrt{25 - x^2 - y^2}\}$$

$$E^* = \{(p, \theta, \varphi) \mid \sqrt{3} p^2 \sin^2 \varphi \leq p \cos \varphi \leq \sqrt{25 - p^2 \sin^2 \varphi}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi, p \geq 0\}$$

$$E^* = \{(p, \theta, \varphi) \mid \sqrt{3} p \sin \varphi \leq p \cos \varphi \leq \sqrt{25 - p^2 \sin^2 \varphi}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi, p \geq 0\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{3} \sin \varphi &\leq \cos \varphi \\ \tan \varphi &\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ 0 \leq \varphi &\leq \pi/6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p^2 \cos^2 \varphi &\leq 25 - p^2 \sin^2 \varphi \\ p^2 \cos^2 \varphi + p^2 \sin^2 \varphi &\leq 25 \\ p^2 &\leq 25 \\ 0 \leq p &\leq 5 \end{aligned}$$

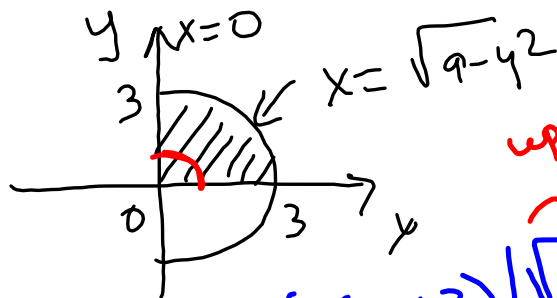
$$I = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/6} \int_0^5 f(p \sin \varphi \cos \theta, p \sin \varphi \sin \theta, p \cos \varphi) p^2 \sin \varphi dp d\varphi d\theta$$

EXAMPLE 5. Evaluate the integral by changing to spherical coordinates:

$$I = \int_0^3 \int_0^{\sqrt{9-y^2}} \int_{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}^{\sqrt{18-x^2-y^2}} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2) dz dx dy.$$

$$= \iint_D \left[\int_{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}^{\sqrt{18-x^2-y^2}} (x^2 + y^2 + z^2) dz \right] dA,$$

where $D = \{(x, y) \mid 0 \leq y \leq 3, 0 \leq x \leq \sqrt{9-y^2}\}$



upper
cone

hemisphere
with radius $\sqrt{18}$

$$E = \{(x, y, z) \mid \sqrt{x^2+y^2} \leq z \leq \sqrt{18-x^2-y^2}\}$$

$$E^* = \left\{ (\rho, \theta, \phi) \mid 0 \leq \rho \leq \sqrt{18}, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2, 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi/4 \right\}$$



$$I = \int_0^{\sqrt{18}} \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^{\pi/4} \underbrace{\rho^2 \rho^2 \sin \varphi d\varphi d\theta d\rho}_{dV^*}$$

$$= \left(\int_0^{\sqrt{18}} \rho^4 d\rho \right) \left(\int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta \right) \left(\int_0^{\pi/4} \sin \varphi d\varphi \right) =$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2} \int_0^{\pi/4} \sin \varphi d\varphi \int_0^{3\sqrt{2}} \rho^4 d\rho$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2} (-\cos \varphi) \Big|_0^{\pi/4} \frac{\rho^5}{5} \Big|_0^{3\sqrt{2}} = \dots$$