

13.5: Double integrals in polar coordinates

EXAMPLE 1. Evaluate

$$I = \iint_D \arctan \frac{y}{x} \, dA$$

where $D = \{(x, y) \mid 1 \leq x^2 + y^2 \leq 4, x \leq y \leq \sqrt{3}x, x \geq 0\}$.

THEOREM 2. Change to polar coordinates in a double integral: Let f be a continuous on the region D . Denote by D^* the region representing D in the polar coordinates (r, θ) . Then

$$\iint_D f(x, y) \, dA = \iint_{D^*} f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) \, r \, dr \, d\theta.$$

REMARK 3. Be careful not to forget the additional factor r on the right side of the formula.

Solution of Example 1: Evaluate $I = \iint_D \arctan \frac{y}{x} dA$
where $D = \{(x, y) \mid 1 \leq x^2 + y^2 \leq 4, x \leq y \leq \sqrt{3}x, x \geq 0\}$.

EXAMPLE 4. Find the volume of the solid that lies under the paraboloid $z = x^2 + y^2$, above the xy -plane and inside the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 2x$.

EXAMPLE 5. Find the area of the region inside the circle $r = 4 \sin \theta$ and outside the circle $r = 2$.