

Consider the area function, $A(r) = \pi r^2$. When the radius changes from r to $r + dr$, the area changes from πr^2 to $\pi(r + \Delta r)^2$. That is,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta A &= \pi(r + \Delta r)^2 - \pi r^2 \\ &= \pi[r^2 + 2r \Delta r + (\Delta r)^2] - \pi r^2 \\ &= 2\pi r \Delta r + \pi (\Delta r)^2,\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\frac{\Delta A}{\Delta r} = \pi(2r + \Delta r).$$

Therefore, in the limit that Δr approaches 0, one has

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dA}{dr} &= \lim_{\Delta r \rightarrow 0} \pi(2r + \Delta r) \\ &= 2\pi r.\end{aligned}$$