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Volumes of solids of Revolution—Cylindrical Shells (2.3) Arc Length, and Surface Area of solids of revolution (2.4)

The method of cylindrical shells allows us to rotate functions of x around the y-axis (or lines parallel to the y-axis). Or to rotate functions of y around the x-axis (or a line parallel to x-axis).

Surface area times the thickness is the volume. And the surface of the cylindrical shell is a rectangle. The height of the cylinder = function. The other side is the circumference of the cylinder. $C = 2\pi r$. What is the radius? That distance is just x. The volume is going to be $V = (2\pi x)f(x)\Delta x$.

$$
V = 2\pi \int_{a}^{b} x f(x) dx
$$

$$
V = 2\pi \int_{c}^{d} y f(y) dy
$$

Example.

Find the volume of the solid of revolution bounded by $f(x) = -(1-x)^2 + 1$ and $y = 0$. Revolved around the y-axis.

$$
f(x) = -(1-x)^2 + 1 = -(1-2x + x^2) + 1 = -1 + 2x - x^2 + 1 = 2x - x^2
$$

$$
V = 2\pi \int_0^2 x(2x - x^2) dx = 2\pi \int_0^2 2x^2 - x^3 dx = 2\pi \left[\frac{2}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{4}x^4 \right]_0^2 =
$$

$$
2\pi \left[\frac{16}{3} - 4 \right] = 2\pi \left[\frac{4}{3} \right] = \frac{8\pi}{3}
$$

What if I'm rotating the function around a line parallel to the y-axis?

What changes here is the radius in our function. It's not x anymore. It's now x minus the axis of rotation.

 $x - (-1) = x + 1$

Repeat the same problem as before with the new axis of rotation.

Example.

Find the volume of the solid of revolution if we rotate the region bounded by $x = 2\sqrt{y}$, $x = 0$, $y = 2$ around the x-axis.

$$
V = 2\pi \int_{c}^{d} y f(y) dy = 2\pi \int_{0}^{2} y(2\sqrt{y}) dy = 4\pi \int_{0}^{2} y^{\frac{3}{2}} dy = 4\pi \left[\frac{2}{5} y^{\frac{5}{2}} \right]_{0}^{2} = \frac{8\pi}{5} (\sqrt{32}) = \frac{8\pi}{5} (4\sqrt{2})
$$

$$
\frac{32\pi\sqrt{2}}{5}
$$

Rotate the same problem but around y=3.

In this orientation the axis of rotation is on the opposite side of the region (compared to the x-axis). The radius for the cylinder, becomes axis of rotation minus y.

$$
2\pi \int_0^2 (3-y)(2\sqrt{y}) dy
$$

Arc Length and Surface Area of volumes of revolution.

The approximation that underlies the arc length formula is the Pythagorean Theorem.

$$
a^2 + b^2 = c^2
$$

a is the small distance in x = Δx , and b is the small distance in y = Δy , and c is the estimate for the length of the curve.

See handout on Arc Length for details of the derivation.

$$
s = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx
$$

Example. Find the arclength of the function $f(x) = \ln (\cos x)$ on the interval $\left[\frac{\pi}{6}\right]$ $\frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{3}$ $\frac{\pi}{3}$.

$$
f'(x) = \frac{1}{\cos x} (-\sin x) = -\tan x
$$

$$
s = \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \sqrt{1 + (-\tan x)^2} dx = \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \sqrt{1 + \tan^2 x} dx = \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \sqrt{\sec^2 x} dx = \int_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \sec x \, dx =
$$
\n
$$
[\ln |\sec x + \tan x|]_{\frac{\pi}{6}}^{\frac{\pi}{3}} = \ln |2 + \sqrt{3}| - \ln \left| \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right| \approx 0.76765 \dots
$$

Very few functions make integrable arc length problems.

This leads us to the surface are of the solid of revolution.

$$
SA = 2\pi \int_{a}^{b} R(x)\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx
$$

The R(x) function out front is going to change depending on the axis of rotation.

If we are using a function of x, and we are rotating around the x-axis, the radius of cylinders is the height of the function. So we'd get

$$
SA = 2\pi \int_a^b f(x)\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx
$$

If we are using a function of x, and we are rotating around the y-axis, the radius of our cylinders is the distance from y-axis, which is x. So we get

$$
SA = 2\pi \int_{a}^{b} x\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx
$$

Example.

We want to find the surface of the solid of revolution formed by rotating the region bounded by $y = x^2$ and $x = 2$, $y = 0$, around the y-axis.

What if we rotate around the x-axis?

$$
SA = 2\pi \int_{a}^{b} f(x)\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx = 2\pi \int_{0}^{2} x^2 \sqrt{1 + [2x]^2} dx = 2\pi \int_{0}^{2} x^2 \sqrt{1 + 4x^2} dx
$$

This would require trig substitution to complete by hand (next chapter), or we can put it in the calculator.