

## Quiz 7, taken Friday or Tuesday after break

MATH 23: Multi-variable Calculus

Spring Semester 2026

Lecture notes 22

Homework 22 posted

Lecture 22, Section 5.3: Integration in polar coordinates

Office hours: Hannah today, 1:30-3:30pm ACS-312

Recall double integrals:

The volume between  $z = 0$  and  $z = f(x, y)$  over  $D$  is  $V = \int \int_D f(x, y) dA$ , a number

The area of a region in the  $xy$ -plane is  $A = \int \int_D dA$

The average of a function over a domain  $D$  is

Today: Integration in polar coordinates (5.3)  $\bar{f} = \frac{\int \int_D f(x, y) dA}{\int \int_D dA}$

Midterm: Portion of Final exam can replace first midterm grade with the following properties:

$$\int \int_D (af(x, y) + bg(x, y)) dA = a \int \int_D f(x, y) dA + b \int \int_D g(x, y) dA$$

$$\int \int_{D_1} f(x, y) dA + \int \int_{D_2} f(x, y) dA = \int \int_{D_1 + D_2} f(x, y) dA$$

and with definition

$$\int \int_D f(x, y) dA = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, m \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m f(x_i, y_j) \Delta x \Delta y$$

with  $\Delta x \Delta y = dA$ .

This definition is equivalent of splitting the domain  $D$  into rectangles, and adding them up.

Splitting a domain in cartesian pieces

But there are other ways to split a domain into small pieces

Two more ways to split a domain.

You can even use polar coordinates!

Every point  $(x, y)$  may be written as  $(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ , or in polar form  $(r, \theta)$ .

In the other direction, we have  $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  and  $\tan \theta = y/x$ .

In polar form,  $f(x, y)$  may be rewritten  $f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ . So we can rewrite the integral as

$$\iint_D f(x, y) dA = \iint_D f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) dA = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m f(r_i, \theta_j) dA$$

We can now try to describe  $D$  and  $dA$  in terms of  $r$  and  $\theta$ .

But what is  $dA$ ?

The area element in polar coordinates.

$$dA = \frac{\pi(r + \Delta r)^2 - \pi r^2}{2\pi} \Delta\theta = r \Delta r \Delta\theta + (\Delta r)^2 \Delta\theta / 2$$

As we take  $\Delta r \rightarrow 0$ , the last term is much smaller than the others and so it is negligible.

You may think of this area as a bent rectangle of size  $\Delta r$  by  $\Delta\theta r$ .

So we will use  $dA = r \, dr \, d\theta$  in our integrals. This has the units of area, which can help you remember it.

For the bounds of integration, you still shoot "arrows" (automatic weapon/boomerang)

Arrows (Cartesian) vs boomerang (polar)

Example 1: a half-circle of radius 2

What is the average of  $f(x, y) = \sin(x^2 + y^2)$  over  $D$ ?

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_0^2 \sin(r^2) r dr d\theta = \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \pi \right) \left( -\frac{\cos(r^2)}{2} \Big|_0^2 \right) = \frac{1 - \cos 4}{4}$$

Example 2: Let  $f(x, y) = xy$ . Domain is  $(x - 1)^2 + y^2 \leq 1$ . We rewrite  $(x - 1)^2 + y^2 = 1$  as  $x^2 + y^2 = 2x$  so

Example 2: a translated circle of radius 1

$r^2 = 2r \cos \theta$  so  $r = 2 \cos \theta$ .

$$\int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_0^{2 \cos \theta} r^3 \sin \theta \cos \theta dr d\theta = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} 16 \cos^5 \theta \sin \theta d\theta$$

And the rest is (supposed to be by now) easy.

## Example 3

What is the area of the region bounded by  $r = \cos(2\theta)$ , for  $-\pi/4 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ .

$$A = \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} \int_0^{\cos(2\theta)} dA = \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} \int_0^{\cos(2\theta)} r dr d\theta$$

$$\int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{2} d\theta = \frac{2\theta + \sin 4\theta}{4} \Big|_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} = \pi/4$$

There are 2 reasons to use polar coordinates rather than Cartesian coordinates:

1) The integrand is suitable to polar coordinates

OR

2) The domain is suitable to polar coordinates.