

Lecture 25, Section 5.5: Triple Integrals in spherical coordinates

We still want to integrate over a Volume in space, but now we want to describe space using Spherical coordinates: ρ, θ, ϕ .

Quiz 8 is today or Tuesday

Quiz 9 is posted

Notes 25 today: Spherical coordinates

Homework 25 posted

Office hours: today, Lucas, 1-3pm, ACS 362B

Posted:

Old test 2

list of sections covered in test 2

Cheat sheet

Spherical coordinates.

$0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$: Angle to the z -axis

$0 \leq \rho \leq 2\infty$: Distance to the origin

Surfaces easily described in spherical coordinates:

$\rho = R$ is a sphere of radius R , centered at the origin.

$\theta = \pi/4$ is a half-plane.

$\phi = \pi/4$ is a cone, the same as $z = r$ in cylindrical coordinates.

Fixing ρ , θ , and ϕ in spherical coordinates.

The relation between Cartesian and spherical coordinates.

$$\rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2, \quad \cos \phi = z/\rho, \quad \tan \theta = y/x$$

$$x = \rho \cos \theta \sin \phi, \quad y = \rho \sin \theta \sin \phi, \quad z = \rho \cos \phi.$$

To use this in triple integrals $\int \int \int_V f(x, y, z) dV$, we need to:

1) Convert the integrand $f(x, y, z)$ to $f(\rho, \theta, \phi)$.

2) Express V in spherical coordinates.

3) Express dV in spherical coordinates.

So what is dV ? $dV = \text{length} \times \text{width} \times \text{height}$, so

$$dV = (\rho \sin \phi)(\rho d\phi)d\rho$$

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

Volume element in spherical coordinates.

Just the spherical volume element.

Example: What is the mass of the Earth if the density is

$$d(x, y, z) = \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}{R^2}\right)^{3/2}\right)$$

with $R = 6500$ km.

$$M = \int \int \int_V d(x, y, z) dV = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^R \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{5} \frac{\rho^3}{R^3} \rho^2 \sin \phi\right) d\rho d\phi d\theta \quad (1)$$

$$= (2\pi) \left(-\cos \phi \Big|_0^\pi\right) \left(-\frac{5}{3} R^3 \left(\log\left(1 - \frac{1}{5} \frac{\rho^3}{R^3} - 1\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{5} \frac{\rho^3}{R^3}\right) \Big|_0^R\right) \right) \quad (2)$$

where we used $u = 1 - 1/5 \rho^3/R^3$ and $du = -3/5 \rho^2/R^3 d\rho$.

This simplifies to $4\pi R^3 (5/3) (1 + (4/5)(1 - \log(4/5)))$.

One other example: Mass of an ice cream cone: $\phi = \pi/6$, so the cone is $z = \sqrt{3}(x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$

The ice cream is a spherical cap of radius $R = 2/\sqrt{3}$ centered at $(0, 0, R)$.

So the sphere is $x^2 + y^2 + (z - R)^2 = R^2$ or $\rho^2 = 2\rho R \cos \phi$. And finally the density is $d(x, y, z) = \frac{4zy^2}{x^2 + y^2}$

So our integral becomes:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/6} \int_0^{2R \cos \phi} \frac{4\rho \cos \phi \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta}{\rho^2 \sin^2 \phi} \rho^2 \sin \phi d\rho d\phi d\theta$$

Ice cream cone.