

CHANGE OF COORDINATES: II
 BASED ON LECTURE NOTES BY JAMES MCKERNAN

Example 1. Let D be the region bounded by the cardioid,

$$r = 1 - \cos \theta.$$

If we multiply both sides by r and take $r \cos \theta$ over the other side, then we get

$$(x^2 + y^2 + x)^2 = x^2 + y^2.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{area}(D) &= \iint_D dx dy \\ &= \iint_{D^*} r dr d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left(\int_0^{1-\cos \theta} r dr \right) d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left[\frac{r^2}{2} \right]_0^{1-\cos \theta} d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{(1 - \cos \theta)^2}{2} d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} - \cos \theta + \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \left[\frac{\theta}{2} - \sin \theta \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{2} \\ &= \frac{3\pi}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

In \mathbb{R}^3 , we can either use cylindrical or spherical coordinates, instead of Cartesian coordinates.

Let's first do the case of cylindrical coordinates. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= r \cos \theta \\ y &= r \sin \theta \\ z &= z. \end{aligned}$$

So the Jacobian is given by

$$\frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(r, \theta, z)}(r, \theta, z) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = r.$$

So,

$$\iiint_W f(x, y, z) dx dy dz = \iiint_{W^*} f(r, \theta, z) r dr d\theta dz.$$

Example 2. Consider a ball of radius a . Put the centre of the ball at the point $(0, 0, 0)$. Note that

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2,$$

translates to the equation

$$r^2 + z^2 = a^2,$$

so that

$$r = \sqrt{a^2 - z^2}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{vol}(W) &= \iiint_W dx \, dy \, dz \\ &= \iiint_{W^*} r \, dr \, d\theta \, dz \\ &= \int_{-a}^a \left(\int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^{\sqrt{a^2 - z^2}} r \, dr \right) d\theta \right) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-a}^a \left(\int_0^{2\pi} [r^2]_0^{\sqrt{a^2 - z^2}} d\theta \right) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-a}^a \left(\int_0^{2\pi} a^2 - z^2 \, d\theta \right) dz \\ &= \pi \int_{-a}^a a^2 - z^2 \, dz \\ &= \pi \left[a^2 z - \frac{z^3}{3} \right]_{-a}^a \\ &= \frac{4\pi a^3}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Now consider using spherical coordinates. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ y &= \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ z &= \rho \cos \phi. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(\rho, \phi, \theta)}(\rho, \phi, \theta) &= \begin{vmatrix} \sin \phi \cos \theta & \rho \cos \phi \cos \theta & -\rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ \sin \phi \sin \theta & \rho \cos \phi \sin \theta & \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ \cos \phi & -\rho \sin \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \rho^2 \cos^2 \phi \sin \phi + \rho^2 \sin^3 \phi = \rho^2 \sin \phi. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that this is greater than zero, if $0 < \phi < \pi$. So,

$$\iiint_W f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz = \iiint_{W^*} f(\rho, \phi, \theta) \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\phi \, d\theta.$$

Example 3. Consider a ball of radius a . Put the centre of the ball at the point $(0, 0, 0)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{vol}(W) &= \iiint_W dx \, dy \, dz \\
 &= \iiint_{W^*} \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\phi \, d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^\pi \left(\int_0^a \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \right) d\phi \right) d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^\pi \sin \phi \left[\frac{\rho^3}{3} \right]_0^a d\phi \right) d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^\pi \sin \phi \frac{a^3}{3} d\phi \right) d\theta \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \int_0^{2\pi} [-\cos \phi]_0^\pi d\theta \\
 &= \frac{2a^3}{3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \\
 &= \frac{4\pi a^3}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$