

### 15.6. Triple integrals.

**Definition 15.3.** Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be a function defined on  $B = [a, b] \times [c, d] \times [r, s]$ . For  $m, n, l > 0$ , set  $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{l}$ ,  $\Delta y = \frac{d-c}{m}$  and  $\Delta z = \frac{s-r}{n}$ . The integral of  $f$  over  $B$  is defined by

$$\iiint_B f(x, y, z) dV = \lim_{l, m, n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_{ijk}^*, y_{ijk}^*, z_{ijk}^*) \Delta V,$$

provided the limit exists and is independent of the selection of sample points  $(x_{ijk}^*, y_{ijk}^*, z_{ijk}^*) \in B_{ijk}$ , where  $\Delta V = \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$ ,  $B_{ijk} = [x_{i-1}, x_i] \times [y_{j-1}, y_j] \times [z_{k-1}, z_k]$  and  $x_i = a + i\Delta x$ ,  $y_j = c + j\Delta y$ ,  $z_k = r + k\Delta z$ .

**Theorem 15.4** (Fubini's theorem). *Let  $f$  be a continuous function on  $B = [a, b] \times [c, d] \times [r, s]$ . Then,  $f$  is integrable over  $B$  and*

$$\iiint_B f(x, y, z) dV = \int_r^s \int_c^d \int_a^b f(x, y, z) dx dy dz.$$

In particular, if  $F, G, H$  are continuous and  $f(x, y, z) = F(x)G(y)H(z)$ , then

$$\iiint_B f(x, y, z) dV = \int_a^b F(x) dx \times \int_c^d G(y) dy \times \int_r^s H(z) dz.$$

*Remark 15.6.* For general bounded regions,  $E$ , let  $B$  be a box containing  $E$  and  $F$  is an extension of  $f$  obtained by defined  $F = 0$  on  $B \setminus E$ . Then, the integrability of  $f$  over  $E$  is defined to be the integrability of  $F$  over  $B$ . Further, Fubini's theorem applies in this case when the discontinuity of  $F$  is contained in a finite union of smooth surfaces.

In the following, we consider three specific types of  $E$ .

**Type I**  $E = \{(x, y, z) | u_1(x, y) \leq z \leq u_2(x, y), (x, y) \in D\}$ , where  $D$  is the projection of  $E$  onto the  $xy$ -plane. In this case, we have

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \iint_D \left( \int_{u_1(x, y)}^{u_2(x, y)} f(x, y, z) dz \right) dA.$$

In particular, if  $D = \{(x, y) | g_1(x) \leq y \leq g_2(x), a \leq x \leq b\}$ , then

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \int_a^b \int_{g_1(x)}^{g_2(x)} \int_{u_1(x, y)}^{u_2(x, y)} f(x, y, z) dz dy dx.$$

Similarly, if  $D = \{(x, y) | h_1(y) \leq x \leq h_2(y), c \leq y \leq d\}$ , then

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \int_c^d \int_{h_1(y)}^{h_2(y)} \int_{u_1(x, y)}^{u_2(x, y)} f(x, y, z) dz dx dy.$$

*Example 15.11.* Let  $E$  be a tetrahedron bounded by  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 0$ ,  $z = 0$  and  $x + y + z = 1$ . Find  $\iiint_E z dV$ . Note that

$$E = \{(x, y, z) | 0 \leq z \leq 1 - x - y, 0 \leq y \leq 1 - x, 0 \leq x \leq 1\}.$$

Then,

$$\iiint_E z dV = \int_0^1 \int_0^{1-x} \int_0^{1-x-y} z dz dy dx = \frac{1}{24}.$$

**Types II and III** A region  $E$  is of type II if it is of the form  $\{(x, y, z) | u_1(y, z) \leq x \leq u_2(y, z), (y, z) \in D\}$  and of type III if it is of the form  $\{(x, y, z) | u_1(x, z) \leq y \leq u_2(x, z), (x, z) \in D\}$ . Respectively, their integrals are given by

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \iint_D \left( \int_{u_1(y, z)}^{u_2(y, z)} f(x, y, z) dx \right) dA, \quad (\text{Type II}),$$

and

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \iint_D \left( \int_{u_1(x, z)}^{u_2(x, z)} f(x, y, z) dy \right) dA, \quad (\text{Type III}).$$

*Example 15.12.* Let  $E$  be the region bounded by the paraboloid  $y = x^2 + z^2$  and the plane  $y = 4$ . It is clear that  $E$  is of Types I, II and III. Then, for any continuous function  $f$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV &= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{x^2}^4 \int_{-\sqrt{y-x^2}}^{\sqrt{y-x^2}} f(x, y, z) dz dy dx = \int_0^4 \int_{-\sqrt{y}}^{\sqrt{y}} \int_{-\sqrt{y-x^2}}^{\sqrt{y-x^2}} f(x, y, z) dz dx dy \\ &= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{z^2}^4 \int_{-\sqrt{y-z^2}}^{\sqrt{y-z^2}} f(x, y, z) dx dy dz = \int_0^4 \int_{-\sqrt{y}}^{\sqrt{y}} \int_{-\sqrt{y-z^2}}^{\sqrt{y-z^2}} f(x, y, z) dx dz dy \\ &= \int_{-2}^2 \int_{-\sqrt{4-x^2}}^{\sqrt{4-x^2}} \int_{x^2+z^2}^4 f(x, y, z) dy dz dx = \int_{-2}^2 \int_{-\sqrt{4-z^2}}^{\sqrt{4-z^2}} \int_{x^2+z^2}^4 f(x, y, z) dy dx dz \end{aligned}$$

In particular, if  $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + z^2$ , then

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \iint_D (4 - x^2 - z^2)(x^2 + z^2) dA,$$

where  $D = \{(x, z) | x^2 + z^2 \leq 4\}$ . By using the polar coordinate, the above integral becomes

$$\iiint_E f(x, y, z) dV = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^2 (4 - r^2)r^3 dr d\theta = \frac{32\pi}{3}.$$

*Remark 15.7.* For any bounded region  $E$ , the volume is given by  $V(E) = \iiint_E 1 dV$ .

*Example 15.13.* Let  $E$  be the pyramid of height  $h$  of which edge of the base is  $d$ . Let  $T$  be the tetrahedron bounded by  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 0$ ,  $z = 0$  and  $\sqrt{2}(x + y)/d + z/h = 1$ . Note that  $V(E) = 4V(T)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} V(T) &= \iiint_T 1 dV = \int_0^{d/\sqrt{2}} \int_0^{d/\sqrt{2}-x} \int_0^{h(1-\sqrt{2}(x+y)/d)} 1 dz dy dx \\ &= \frac{h}{\sqrt{2}d} \int_0^{d/\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{d}{\sqrt{2}} - x \right)^2 dx = \frac{d^2 h}{12} \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $V(E) = d^2 h/3$ .